

SECTION SIX 1956 - 1961

CHAPTER XLI

THE DURBAN UNITED

HEBREW CONGREGATION : 1956 - 1961

The developments within the Durban United Hebrew Congregation in the decade following the Second World War were in large measure superceded by the advances that were made by the Congregation in the six years thereafter. Heightened activity and significant progress in a wide area of Congregational affairs were the characteristic features of this period which was one of great historic importance for Orthodox Judaism in Durban.

With the departure of Rabbi Harris Swift, for the United States, in January 1956,<sup>1</sup> a sense of loss pervaded the members of the Congregation, for during his ministry in Durban the Rabbi had made a profound impression on his congregants, and the wider community, and his absence

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<sup>1</sup>*Basholom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 9.

was, therefore, most keenly felt.<sup>2</sup> It thus became a matter of the highest priority for the Council of the Congregation to fill the vacuum that arose in consequence of the Rabbi's resignation. At a special general meeting of the members held on April 30, 1956,<sup>3</sup> the Council was empowered to issue a call to Rabbi Dr Abraham Tobias Shrock of the Sea Point Hebrew Congregation and news of Rabbi Shrock's acceptance was received with considerable satisfaction.<sup>4</sup>

The Rabbi elect of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation appeared to be eminently qualified for his new post, his distinguished and lengthy *curriculum vitae* revealing wide ministerial and academic experience. Born in Dodrecht in the Cape in 1906, Rabbi Shrock had received his education at Maritzburg College and then proceeded to Jews' College, in London, in 1924, where he qualified as a minister. In 1927 he obtained the degree of BA Honours in Hebrew, Syriac and Aramaic at the University of London and had later been appointed Assistant Librarian at Jews' College.

Towards the end of 1930, Rabbi Shrock had been elected to the pulpit of the Yeoville Synagogue, a constituent of the United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg, and had thus become the first South African

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<sup>2</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 11, 1956, p.19.

to enter the Rabbinate. Shortly afterwards, at the request of Chief Rabbi Landau, he became the Hon. Secretary of the *Beth Din* in Johannesburg. In 1936, the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Rabbinics was conferred on him by the University of London for his work on the famous medieval Spanish rabbi, Rabbi Yonah ben Avraham. After lecturing for several years in Hebrew at the University of the Witwatersrand he was requested to act as Head of the Department of Hebrew in 1939, and retained this appointment until his departure from Johannesburg.

With the outbreak of World War II, a special committee for the nomination of Jewish Chaplains was set up by the Adjutant General of the Union Defence Forces and Dr Shrock was one of the four Rabbis who was invited to constitute this committee. At the Adjutant General's request Rabbi Shrock acted as the committee's secretary whilst he also served as a part-time Chaplain.

On accepting a call from the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation in Cape Town, in 1945, the Rabbi was immediately invited to join the *Beth Din* in Cape Town. In 1946 he was appointed Principal Jewish Chaplain to the Union Defence Forces,<sup>5</sup> a position which he still held on his acceptance of his new post in Durban.

During the interim period preceding the Rabbi's arrival the Durban United Hebrew Congregation managed to

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<sup>5</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 7.

carry on most successfully, notwithstanding the many difficulties attendant on being without a spiritual head. Regular and well attended services, especially on Shabbat eve, continued to be held in both Synagogues to the credit of Cantor Metzger and the Rev. A. Kaplan, as well as the choir, under the leadership of Mr David Cohen.<sup>6</sup>

Whilst the Congregation eagerly awaited the arrival of Rabbi Shrock the question was raised as to why the senior congregation had had no less than seven ministerial heads and why of all Rabbi Shrock's predecessors only one, the Rev. S. Pincus, had served out his life span in office.<sup>7</sup> Unlike some of their Christian counterparts who ministered to their congregants for a life time, sharing in their joys and sorrows, the ministry of almost every Jewish spiritual leader had been of relatively brief duration. To those members of the Hebrew Congregation, both young and old, who looked to the Rabbi "as the symbol of spiritual stability to which his people are inevitably drawn,"<sup>8</sup> such impermanence on the part of their religious leaders was extremely disconcerting.

Whereas in the past the blame for this state of affairs had inevitably been laid on the community, the question now arose as to whether or not the Rabbis were,

<sup>6</sup> *Hasholom Koch Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 56.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 27.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 29.

in respect of this matter, beyond all reproach. In such vein it was asked,

Is it not the function of a shepherd to keep his flock in order to guard it from the depredations of those who would destroy it and to round up the strays? If the flock proves unruly - as flocks tend to do - is it meet for the shepherd to leave it to itself and to take himself off to herd another flock? If such be the nature of shepherds, what purpose do they serve? Where is the tenacity which is a concomitant of true faith and purpose?<sup>9</sup>

Although it was impossible to say with absolute clarity where the blame for Durban's dilemma really lay, it was clearly not an entirely one sided issue. Amongst the Congregation's former Rabbis, one had digressed briefly into commerce, and his predecessor had abandoned the Rabbinate altogether in order to enter the legal profession, suggesting by those actions the extent of their dedication to their divine calling.

Durban, however, was largely isolated geographically from communities in other parts of the Union and few amongst its Orthodox residents were strict in their religious observance, and the attraction of larger, more committed, Jewish communities was, therefore, all the more attractive to its Rabbis. In emphasising the Rabbi's responsibility to his congregants the loneliness, frustration and disappointment which he experienced through having to work in isolation from religious

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

colleagues and congregants was often disregarded. Those who asserted the Rabbi's responsibility to his flock furthermore inevitably overlooked his right to personal happiness and fulfillment.

As the date of Rabbi Shrock's arrival in Durban drew near Mr M. Cohen, the retiring chairman, appealed at the Congregation's annual general meeting, for full support for the new Rabbi,<sup>10</sup> no doubt harbouring the hope that the Rabbi's association with Durban would be a long and fruitful one.

Rabbi Shrock arrived by ship from Cape Town, with his wife and two children, on December 4, 1956, to assume his duties in Durban<sup>11</sup> and was immediately swept up in a round of activities. On Sabbath eve, Friday, December 7th, he was inducted into office at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue by Mr Alfred Stiller, the Chairman of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation.<sup>12</sup> The introductory reception given to the new spiritual head of the Orthodox community and his family, was held at the Durban Jewish Club on December 9, in a hall crowded to capacity by many of the Rabbi's new congregants,<sup>13</sup> and on the following day the Rabbi

<sup>10</sup>*The Zionist Record*, October 26, 1956, p.14.

<sup>11</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, December 5, 1956, p.13.

<sup>12</sup>*The Zionist Record*, December 14, 1956, p.16.

<sup>13</sup>*Haskolom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 5.

performed his first official duty in Durban when he opened the WIZO Fete.<sup>14</sup> At a function arranged the following week, chairmen of local organisations and leading members of the committees met Rabbi and Mrs Shrock and their daughter at the home of Mr and Mrs A. Stiller.<sup>15</sup> Some months later, in March 1957, the Rabbi and his wife were the guests of honour at a luncheon given at the Jewish Club, which was also attended by the Mayor and many of Durban's clergy.<sup>16</sup>

Soft spoken and far more reserved than his predecessor, Rabbi Shrock applied himself diligently to the task of serving his new Congregation. Like those before him Rabbi Shrock ministered not only to the Orthodox Jews of Durban but concerned himself with the religious advancement of Jewry throughout Natal. In June 1957, accompanied by Mr A. Stiller, the Chairman of the Congregation, and Mr D. Spector, the Secretary of the Council of Natal Jewry, the Rabbi undertook his first Pastoral Tour through the Province. After calling on Jewish residents in Verulam, Gigindhlovu, Mtunzini, Empangeni, Mtubatuba and Melmoth the Rabbi visited Vryheid, where he preached during the Sabbath eve service and attended an official reception held in the Synagogue Hall on the Sunday night. Thereafter the Rabbi made

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<sup>14</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, December 10, 1956, p.10.

<sup>15</sup>*The Zionist Record*, December 14, 1956, p.16.

<sup>16</sup>*Rasholom*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 15.

brief calls on the Jewish inhabitants of Dundee, Glencoe, Danhauser, Newcastle, Ladysmith and Howick.

Shortly afterwards the Rabbi visited Pietermaritzburg where he addressed the community at a reception in his honour. On that occasion he was accompanied by his wife, Mr L.S. Ditz, the President of the Council of Natal Jewry, and Mrs Ditz.<sup>17</sup> Some months earlier Mrs Shrock had paid her first visit to the Natal Capital, where a reception was held in her honour by the Pietermaritzburg branch of the Union of Jewish Women.<sup>18</sup> The Rabbi's first Pastoral Tour of Natal was concluded with a trip to Margate and Port Shepstone in September 1957.<sup>19</sup>

The contact made by the Rabbi during his visit to the scattered Jewish communities of Natal was renewed in the course of subsequent tours through the Province.<sup>20</sup> The Rabbi's position as spiritual leader of Orthodox Jewry in Natal was thereby reaffirmed and the place of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation as the Mother Congregation of Natal was reinforced. One of the many duties within the scope of Rabbi Shrock's activities in

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 25.

<sup>18</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 10, 1957, p.11.

<sup>19</sup> *The Zionist Record*, September 20, 1957, p.10.

<sup>20</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 33., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64., *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.3] (May, 1961), 35.



respect of the country communities was his participation in the service at the Vryheid Synagogue, in November 1961, held to mark the induction of the town's first Jewish Mayor, Councillor A. Saitz.<sup>21</sup>

In his capacity as Rabbi of the Orthodox Jews of Natal Dr Shrock was accorded great respect by the Gentile population of the Province and his opinion was frequently sought out by his Christian neighbours whenever a question in regard to Jewish religious attitudes arose.<sup>22</sup>

Ministering as he did, to the majority of the Province's Jewish residents the Rabbi was, with considerable justification, able to speak and act on their behalf. On the death of the Most Rev. Geoffrey Clayton, Archbishop of Cape Town, in March 1957,<sup>23</sup> the Rabbi, in the name of his congregants and himself, commiserated with the members of the Anglican Communion in their loss.<sup>24</sup> Similarly some years later, at a Civic Reception in the Jubilee Hall, Rabbi Shrock extended his own, and his community's good wishes to the Rev. Andre de Villiers, upon his election as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in

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<sup>21</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry Held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, 7th February, 1962, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>22</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, October 29, 1959, p.1., November 21, 1959, p.1.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, March 8, 1957, p.1.

<sup>24</sup> *Haaholom*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 15.

Southern Africa.<sup>25</sup>

Whenever cause for an inter-denominational service arose it was Rabbi Shrock, in his capacity as minister to the largest section of the City's Jewish population, who was called upon to represent the Jewish community. Consequently he sat amongst the religious leaders on the platform of the City Hall at a memorial service on August 27, 1958, for the late Prime Minister, Mr J.G. Strydom;<sup>26</sup> he assisted at the service on November 30, 1959, in memory of the Governor General, Dr E.G. Jansen;<sup>27</sup> and also attended the service held at the City Hall on May 30, 1960, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Union of South Africa.<sup>28</sup>

As both religious leader and a concerned South African the Rabbi, saddened by the extent of malnutrition amongst African children, solicited donations from amongst his congregants for a fund that was instituted by the local Churches to supply milk to the victims of kwashiokor.<sup>29</sup> Motivated by the same dual considerations Rabbi Shrock gave his support, in October 1960, to the call for a daily pause for prayer, in view of the strife

<sup>25</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, September 7, 1961, p.7.

<sup>26</sup>*Ibid.*, August 29, 1958, p.13. See below p.1341.

<sup>27</sup>*Ibid.*, December 1, 1959, p.2. See below p.1342

<sup>28</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, May 30, 1960, p.11. See below p.1355.

<sup>29</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.6] (February, 1960), 5.

in South Africa.<sup>30</sup>

Amongst Gentile audiences Rabbi Shrock was an extremely popular speaker who was frequently called upon to address a host of meetings convened by a variety of different Church and social organisations keen to learn more about Judaism. In this way he not only contributed to a wider understanding of the Jewish faith but also advanced the cause of inter-faith contact and improved public relations. Those organisations that afforded the Rabbi a platform included the Central Methodist Youth Group,<sup>31</sup> the Durban Parliament,<sup>32</sup> the ToCH Lunch Forum,<sup>33</sup> the Teenage Fellowship of the Bulwer Road Baptist Church,<sup>34</sup> the Junior League of Kearsney College,<sup>35</sup> the Rotary Club of Scottburgh,<sup>36</sup> the Youth Fellowship of the Greyville Presbyterian Church,<sup>37</sup> the Roman Catholic Kolbe Society,<sup>38</sup> the Evening Women's Group of the Greyville Presbyterian Church,<sup>39</sup> the Nowell Branch of the

<sup>30</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, October 12, 1960, p.4. See below pp.1358-1359.

<sup>31</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.6] (February, 1958), 33.

<sup>32</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, February 18, 1958, p.2.

<sup>33</sup>*Ibid.*, July 17, 1958, p.3.

<sup>34</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 31.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 35.

<sup>36</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.5] (January, 1959), 27.

<sup>37</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 37.

<sup>38</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 29.

<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 35.

Durban ToCB Women's Association,<sup>40</sup> the Marine Women's Institute,<sup>41</sup> the Berea Townswomen's Guild,<sup>42</sup> the St. George's Youth Guild of Northdene<sup>43</sup> and the Scottsburgh Wesley Senior Guild.<sup>44</sup>

An outstanding feature of the Rabbi's ministry was the growth of the Jewish community and the strengthening of Congregational affiliation. This development was clearly reflected in the increase in the number of weddings, *batmitzvahe* and *barmitzvahe* that were held.<sup>45</sup> The number of *barmitzvah* ceremonies, for example, increased from 22 in 1956<sup>46</sup> to more than 40 by 1960.<sup>47</sup> Under Rabbi Shrock's direction it was decided that, from June 1957, all candidates for *barmitzvah* would undergo an examination.<sup>48</sup> The syllabus that the Rabbi drew up for the *barmitzvah* examination included an understanding of the *Parashah*, the blessings over the *Torah*, the *Shema*,

<sup>40</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVIII No.4 (December, 1959), 29.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVIII No.6 (February, 1960), 27.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVIII No.10 (June, 1960), 35.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIX No.2 (October, 1960), 45.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIX No.3 (November, 1960), 37.

<sup>45</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 65., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 44.

<sup>46</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXV No.1] (August, 1956), 66.

<sup>47</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64.

<sup>48</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66.

*Amidah* and Ten Commandments, an awareness of the meaning and purpose of *tephillin*, *mesussah*, *tsitsit* and the Jewish calendar and knowledge of the background and contents of the *Haftorah*, the ability to intone the *Kiddush* for Sabbaths and Festivals, and Jewish history from Abraham to Solomon.<sup>49</sup> The requirements for *barmitzva* were thus brought into line with those prescribed for girls who were required to undergo an examination in order to participate in the annual *batmitzva* ceremony.

Proof of the continued interest on the part of Congregants in their Synagogues was revealed by the numerous gifts presented by members of the Congregation. They included a *parochet*, *Tora*h crown, breast plate and pointer, donated by Mr and Mrs Jack Rubin on the occasion of their Silver Wedding;<sup>50</sup> an antique silver *menorah*, presented by Mr and Mrs H.L. Jacobs on their 25th Wedding anniversary;<sup>51</sup> a *parochet* for the Park St. Synagogue, presented by the Rosenbach family,<sup>52</sup> and a *menorah* donated by Mr and Mrs H. Hadany prior to their *aliyah*.<sup>53</sup> A number of monetary bequests and gifts were also received by the Congregation, and the Trust Fund

<sup>49</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 7.

<sup>50</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>52</sup> Chairlady's Report to the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1958, p.3.

<sup>53</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

was thereby firmly established.<sup>54</sup>

Evidence of Congregational expansion lay in the appointment of an additional official in 1957, in the person of the Rev. A. Peterfreund, who was a qualified *shochet, mohel* and *Baal Kodesh*.<sup>55</sup> The Rev. Peterfreund spent only a few months with the Durban United Hebrew Congregation before returning to Johannesburg in 1958, and the Rev. Z. Hertz was appointed his successor.<sup>56</sup> In 1961, the Rev. Peterfreund returned to Durban<sup>57</sup> when, after fourteen and a half years of devoted service to the Congregation, the Rev. A.M. Kaplan tendered his resignation in order to take up an appointment as the spiritual leader of the Springs Hebrew Congregation.<sup>58</sup>

Of major significance in respect of the Congregation's development was the appointment of a minister in 1961, to lead the growing Jewish population of Durban North. In addition to the High Festivals, Sabbath evening services came to be regularly held from 1956, at the

<sup>54</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 53., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>55</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64.

<sup>56</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 63.

<sup>58</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 7.

Ilana Nursery School.<sup>59</sup> The Congregation had always been responsive to the needs of this developing section of the Jewish community and on occasion officials of the Congregation and the Choir had journeyed to Durban North to participate in the services there.<sup>60</sup> With the engagement of a minister to serve this area the full extent of the Council's interest in its congregants in Durban North came to be clearly manifested.

On Sunday, July 30, 1961, at a service in the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, the Rev. Abner Weiss was inducted as a minister of the Congregation by Rabbi Shrock,<sup>61</sup> who was now made the Chief Minister of the Congregation.<sup>62</sup> The impressive induction service was followed by a reception held in the hall of the Sharona Primary School where Rabbi Shrock introduced the Rev. Weiss, and his wife Shifra, to all the guests.<sup>63</sup>

The 23 year old new minister was born and educated in Johannesburg. After attaining a BA in English, Hebrew, Psychology and History from the University of the Witwatersrand he had attended the Minister's Training

<sup>59</sup> *Bashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.1 (September, 1957), 64., *Bashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*. [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> *South African Jewish Times*, August 18, 1961, p.22.

<sup>62</sup> *Bashalom*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 44.

<sup>63</sup> *South African Jewish Times*, August 18, 1961, p.22.

College in Johannesburg and had graduated as a minister.<sup>64</sup> Before taking up the post of minister of the Durban North community and principal of the Ilana School, the Rev. Weiss had served with distinction as the youth minister at the Great Synagogue in Johannesburg, under Chief Rabbi Dr L.I. Rabinowitz.<sup>65</sup>

With his unbounded energy and forceful eloquence, the new young minister was not long in bringing new life to the Durban North community amongst whom he and Mrs Weiss took up residence. Attendances at services increased significantly, a regular *Shabbat* morning children's service was inaugurated, a women's committee was formed, and a study group was brought into being.

On Friday evening November 24, 1961, large numbers of worshippers were attracted to the *Shabbat* eve service which was devoted to the *Magen David Adom*, and was the first, of what was to be many special services in Durban North. That same *Shabbat* the Durban North community celebrated its first *barmitzvah*, that of Ephy Vigdor, and on the following day, November 26, the community joined the Rev. and Mrs Weiss in celebrating the *brit milah* of their infant son Avram.<sup>66</sup>

The enthusiasm and interest engendered by the

<sup>64</sup> *Haskalah*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 12-13.

<sup>65</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, July 7, 1961, p.15.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, December 8, 1961, p.16., December 22, 1961, p.5., December 27, 1961, p.5.



Rev. Weiss amongst the members of the Congregation in Durban North was clearly borne out by the well attended synagogue services, the enthusiastic reception accorded the Reverend's cultural and social functions, and the widefelt desire to establish a full Congregation with a proper Synagogue, or at least its own hall, that prevailed amongst his congregants only months after his arrival.<sup>67</sup>

Within the Durban United Hebrew Congregation the years that followed Rabbi Shrock's assumption of spiritual office witnessed a number of historic developments. Foremost amongst these was a movement towards according women full membership rights. When this matter was first raised at the Congregation's annual general meeting in 1957, there was little opposition to the basic principle but sufficient insistence on certain safeguards to ensure that the matter was referred back for further consideration.<sup>68</sup> A year later, after very little discussion, the constitution of the Congregation was amended so as to give women the right to attend and to vote at all meetings of the Congregation and to elect four women to the Council. At the same time, however, there was no interference with Orthodox custom and the traditional

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<sup>67</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 68.

<sup>68</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 16, 1957, p.15.

male positions remained unaffected.<sup>69</sup> At the first annual general meeting of the Congregation to be attended by women as full members, in 1959, they participated fully in the discussions and four of them, Mesdames E. Marcus, G. Smith, R. Silbert and M. Zulman, were elected to the Council.<sup>70</sup>

The attainment of full membership rights for women was the consumation of the dream of the Women's Organisation of Seatholders<sup>71</sup> which, upon the recommendation of its Acting Chairlady, Mrs J. Rubin, came, from the end of 1955, to be known as the Synagogue Women's Guild of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation.<sup>72</sup> The change of name perpetuated the name of the former Women's Guild which had always been associated with the Synagogues, and which had disappeared with the Guild's incorporation into the Durban Jewish Welfare Association.

The work of the Guild remained unaffected by the change of name and continued to be largely concentrated on Congregational work. The maintenance of the Holy Vestments, the provision of refreshments after services and on special occasions, the decoration of the Synagogues

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, October 24, 1958, p.17.

<sup>70</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, November 20, 1959, p.14.

<sup>71</sup> Chairlady's Report to the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1958, p.1.

<sup>72</sup> Acting Chairlady's Report at the 7th Annual General Meeting of the Women's Organisation of Seatholders of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, Held on November 23, 1955, at 2.30 pm., p.3.

on *Shavuot* and *Sukkot* and the organisation of an annual Purim party for the youth, remained its principal activities.<sup>73</sup>

Initially the Guild also sought to provide a cultural programme for its members.<sup>74</sup> After 1958 efforts in this direction were, however, reluctantly discontinued, largely owing to the availability of similar such programmes through other organisations to which Guild members were also affiliated.

Whilst the Guild was not a fundraising body, nor was directly concerned with activities outside the scope of the Congregation, as the representative of the Orthodox Jewish women of the City it nevertheless agreed to assist at the annual WIZO fete, convened by the Durban Women's Zionist League.<sup>75</sup> In 1960, it also decided to

<sup>73</sup> Chairlady's Report to the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1956, p.2., Chairlady's Report to the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1957, pp.1-4, *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 45., Chairlady's Report to the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1959, p.3., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXVIII No.1] (September, 1960), 65., Chairlady's Report to the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1961, pp.3-4.

<sup>74</sup> Chairlady's Report to the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1956, p.2., Chairlady's Report to the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1957, p.3., Chairlady's Report to the 10th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1958, p.1.

<sup>75</sup> Chairlady's Report to the 9th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1957, p.5., *Haskalom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 33., *The Zionist Record*, December 12, 1958, p.11.

hold a raffle in order to raise funds for the Synagogue and the success of this venture encouraged it to arrange a mannequin parade in 1961.<sup>76</sup>

Although the active membership of the Guild remained relatively small, owing to the limited nature of its work, those who served in its ranks displayed extreme dedication and commitment and strove to foster in the women of the Congregation an interest in religious and spiritual matters in the hope that they, in turn, would influence their husbands and children. The members of the Guild were therefore greatly encouraged in their work when, largely through the influence of the Rev. Weiss, a Ladies' Guild was successfully inaugurated in the Durban North Congregation in December 1961.<sup>77</sup>

Of no less historical significance for the Durban United Hebrew Congregation was the consecration of an additional section of the Jewish cemetery at Stellawood on November 30, 1958. This unusual ceremony was conducted by Rabbi Shrock, who was assisted by the Rev. I. Hertz and Cantor F. Metzger, and included a threefold perambulation of the grounds, during each of which Psalm XCI was recited.<sup>78</sup>

Application to the City Council for additional

<sup>76</sup> Chairlady's Report to the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1961, pp.1-3.

<sup>77</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 22, 1961, p.5.

<sup>78</sup> *The Zionist Record*, December 19, 1958, p.23.

burial ground adjoining the existing Jewish cemetery had been made in 1950,<sup>79</sup> and the relevant documents in connection with the transfer of additional ground to the cemetery had been signed in 1952.<sup>80</sup> The urgency surrounding the acquisition of further burial space had been prompted by the creation of a Reform Jewish Congregation in Durban and the need that arose therefrom to allocate a portion of burial ground to the Reform community. Such an arrangement served to overcome the problems that had arisen in respect of burying Reform Jews in the Orthodox cemetery and enabled the Reform to carry out the last rites for their members in the manner prescribed by their Movement.

An historical event of a far happier nature was the Congregation's celebration of its 75th anniversary on June 18, 1959. To suitably commemorate this important milestone a special service was held in the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, which was followed by a banquet in the main hall of the Jewish Club.<sup>81</sup> Among the 300 guests present at the banquet were the Mayor and Mayoress of Durban, Councillor and Mrs W.E. Shaw; the Anglican

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<sup>79</sup> Minutes of the Twelfth Council Meeting of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, Held at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue Chambers, on Monday, 4th September, 1950, at 7.45 pm., p.2.

<sup>80</sup> Minutes of the Sixth Council Meeting of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, Held at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue Chambers, on Monday, 7th April, 1952, at 7.45 pm., p.2.

<sup>81</sup> *Hashalom Berek Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51.

Bishop of Natal, the Rt. Rev. Vernon Inman and Mrs Inman; representatives of other Christian denominations, and the Press. All Jewish communal organisations were well represented as were the Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid Hebrew Congregations. As an expression of their good wishes the different Zionist bodies in Durban, together with the Union of Jewish Women, inscribed the Congregation in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.<sup>82</sup>

The attainment of the Congregation's 75th anniversary was in large measure due to the contribution of many of its individual members, some of whom were, during this period, spared to receive great honour, whilst others were taken from the Congregation and community that they had served so well. The rare privilege of life membership, which had been granted only infrequently during the Congregation's history, was, in 1956, conferred upon the Honorable Mr Justice E.S. Benochsberg, a former Chairman of the Council, to mark his elevation to the Bench of the Supreme Court of the Province.<sup>83</sup> Mr Aaron Cohen<sup>84</sup> and Mr Hyman Patz<sup>85</sup> were similarly honoured in 1958 and 1959 respectively, for their long and faithful service to the Congregation. In 1959, the

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<sup>82</sup> *The Zionist Record*, July 3, 1959, p.17.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, October 26, 1956, p.14.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, October 24, 1958, p.17.

<sup>85</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, November 20, 1959, p.14.

Congregation also joined with the Zionist Council for Natal and the Council of Natal Jewry in inscribing Mr and Mrs Moss Freed in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund to mark their Golden Wedding anniversary.<sup>86</sup>

Among those whose passing was mourned by the Congregation were Mr Julius Goldman, a former Chairman and Hon. Treasurer of the Congregation;<sup>87</sup> the Rev. A. Levy of Port Elizabeth, who ministered to the Durban Hebrew Congregation from 1903-1909;<sup>88</sup> Mrs Sarah Lyons, a foundation member of the Women's Section of the *Chevrá Kadisha*;<sup>89</sup> Mr David Cohen, the Congregation's choirmaster;<sup>90</sup> Mr David Harris, a much loved teacher who had taught Hebrew and had trained *barmitzavah* boys;<sup>91</sup> Mr Charles Malatsky, the President of the Park Street Synagogue and Chairman of the Durban Board of *Shechitah* and *Kashrut*;<sup>92</sup> Mrs Sarah Fobb a life member of the Congregation's *Chevrá Kadisha*;<sup>93</sup> Mrs Queenie Levy, a dedicated worker on the *Chevrá*

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<sup>86</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 35.

<sup>87</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 25, 1956, p.5.

<sup>88</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 29.

<sup>89</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 28, 1958, p.5.

<sup>90</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44.

<sup>91</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 21.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 5.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 11.

*Kadisha*;<sup>94</sup> Mrs Grace Smith, a devoted communal worker, who was accorded the privilege of having her funeral cortege leave from the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue;<sup>95</sup> and Mrs Fanny Metzger, the wife of Cantor Metzger.<sup>96</sup>

As the spiritual leader of this Congregation, that had been built up through the efforts of these and so many other notable individuals, Rabbi Shrock strove to interest himself in all aspects of communal life and to heighten the level of religious commitment and knowledge within the Congregation.

The Rabbi set an example in sick visiting to his colleagues and congregants and in this important branch of his ministerial duties he was assisted by Cantor Metzger and the Rev. Kaplan.<sup>97</sup> In caring for the welfare of the sick the Rabbi sought to win support for the creation of a *kosher* kitchen at Addington Hospital.<sup>98</sup> Whilst this scheme proved to be impractical it reflected the Rabbi's concern for the maintenance of the Jewish dietary laws and he, in fact, personally supervised all aspects of *kashrut* in the community, assisted once again

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.12] (August, 1960), 11.

<sup>95</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, July 4, 1961, p.5., *Hashalom* [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 16.

<sup>96</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 16.

<sup>97</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64.

<sup>98</sup> *Hashalom*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 23.



by the Congregation's officials.<sup>99</sup> Under the supervision of the Durban Board of *Shechitah* and *Kashrut*, maintained by the Congregation, the *kashrut* of stores and butcheries was strictly supervised and the ingredients of the breads of specific bakeries were closely scrutinised.<sup>100</sup> An important adjunct to the *kosher* facilities of the community was the *kosher Hotel Mhora* where, in 1958, a *shomukat bayit*, attended by large numbers of the Jewish community, marked the conclusion of its extensive renovations.<sup>101</sup> Founded some seventeen years earlier, through the efforts of Rabbi I. Kossowsky, the hotel was acquired in the early 1950's by the Kerzner family who ran the hotel, with its own small synagogue, for the benefit of local residents and visitors.<sup>102</sup>

An outstanding feature of Rabbi Shrock's ministry, and one with which the Rabbi was intimately connected, was the flowering of religious study within the community. Apart from the *Tanach* Study Circle, which was formed under the auspices of the *Mizrachi* and the Durban United Hebrew Congregation in 1954,<sup>103</sup> and which continued to meet weekly under the direction of the

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<sup>99</sup> *Heshalom Roah Eshkanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44.

<sup>100</sup> *Heshalom*, XXXIV No.6 (March, 1956), 41., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 34.

<sup>101</sup> *The Zionist Record*, December 12, 1958, p.3.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*, May 28, 1954, p.6.

Rev. A.M. Kaplan,<sup>104</sup> an Adult *Talmud* Circle, which also met on a weekly basis and was conducted in Yiddish, was formed under the Rabbi's guidance in 1957.<sup>105</sup> At a small function to mark the first anniversary of this *Talmud* Study Circle, in 1958, it was decided that it would in future be known as the Durban *Chevre Gemara* and the following officers were elected: the Rev. W.G. Stark, Chairman; Mr S. Goldberg, Vice-Chairman; Mr J. Puterman, Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Messrs D. Grunes, L. Klug, J. Shagal and B. Spilka, Committee.<sup>106</sup>

Alongside the *Tanach* and *Talmud* Circles a further group interested in *Agadic* literature met on *Shabbat* afternoons at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue. Yet another group, called the *Chug*, made up of young people aged between 20 and 25 years, met under the guidance of the Rabbi to study Post-Maccabean Jewish history. The same group studied the Bible, under the direction of Mr S. Ernst,<sup>107</sup> and subsequently invited Rabbi Shrock to

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<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, September 20, 1957, p.7., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 29., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 63.

<sup>105</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.2] (October, 1958), 5.

<sup>106</sup> *South African Jewish Times*, January 2, 1959, p.19.

<sup>107</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 32.

lead them in the study of the *Mishnah* and *Talmud*.<sup>108</sup> A deeper knowledge and appreciation of Judaism was also achieved through a number of "Meet the Rabbi Evenings" which were held in private homes, through the lectures given by the Rabbi, under the auspices of the Synagogue Women's Guild,<sup>109</sup> and through individual public lectures which were addressed by, amongst others, the Rev. A. Weiss and Mr S. Ernst.<sup>110</sup>

The upsurge in learning within the Congregation was in part attributable to the efforts of the *Mizrachi*, which had helped to bring about the creation of the *Tanach* Circle and whose members were amongst the regular participants in the weekly sessions of the *Chevra Gemara*.<sup>111</sup> It was also, no doubt, stimulated by the interest in Jewish knowledge that was generated by the *Tanach* and *Talmud* Circles. A great measure of the credit, however, would seem to have been due to the effort and interest that was shown by Rabbi Shrock. The Rabbi, in addition to his ministerial duties, had always been keenly concerned with teaching and his long academic career in Johannesburg bore testimony to his

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<sup>108</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 13.

<sup>109</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 63.

<sup>111</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 25, 1959, p.17.

lengthy association with this avenue of work. This involvement in tertiary education was maintained in Durban when, in 1959, upon the introduction of a course in Hebrew at the University of Natal, the Rabbi was appointed lecturer,<sup>112</sup> and it found its fullest expression in the classes and lectures that he conducted within the Congregation.

Notwithstanding the satisfaction derived by the Council from the gradual proliferation of study groups amongst the congregants, the effect of these groups on Orthodox Jewish life in Durban was not as discernible as might have been desired, owing to the small number of people who took advantage of the learning opportunities that were available.

Throughout the years *Shabbat* eve services continued to be well attended<sup>113</sup> and large numbers of worshippers were present at the special services that were held to mark important events in the life of the community, or that were addressed by distinguished visitors. Among such services were the annual *Chanukah* service held by the Congregation in conjunction with the Durban branch of

<sup>112</sup>*The Zionist Record*, April 3, 1959, p.8 See below p.1433.

<sup>113</sup>*Haskalom Avsh Haskonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64., *Haskalom Avsh Haskonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 65., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

the Jewish Ex-Service League<sup>114</sup> and the special service held by the League, on May 12, 1961, when it hosted the national organisation's conference.<sup>115</sup> Other special services included a Students' Jewish Association service, in April 1956;<sup>116</sup> a service with the Union of Jewish Women, in March 1957, to mark the World Women's Day of Prayer;<sup>117</sup> services to coincide with the annual installation of officers of the F.C. Hollander Lodge No.XI of the Hebrew Order of David;<sup>118</sup> the *barmitzva* celebrations of *Nagen David Adom* in 1959,<sup>119</sup> and special services to mark *Yom Hashoah* and *Yom Haatzmaut*.<sup>120</sup> A public service at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, on April 1, 1960, was held to mark the Golden Jubilee of the University of Natal,<sup>121</sup> and special prayers were offered

<sup>114</sup> *The Zionist Record*, December 14, 1956, p.12., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 17., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>116</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66.

<sup>117</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.8 (March, 1957), 23.

<sup>118</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 65., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>119</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 29.

<sup>120</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 76.

<sup>121</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, April 22, 1960, p.14.

by the Congregation in April 1960, following an attempt on the life of the Prime Minister, Dr Verwoerd,<sup>122</sup> and in May 1961, to mark the creation of the Republic of South Africa.<sup>123</sup>

Foremost amongst the visitors to Durban who were invited to speak in the Congregation's Synagogues were the Chief Rabbi of the Cape, Prof. Israel Abrahams,<sup>124</sup> and Col. Yosef Nevo, the Commander of the Southern Sector during the Sinai Campaign in 1956.<sup>125</sup> The Congregation also continued to organise the communal *Seder* which had become a feature of communal life in Durban and large numbers of people annually joined in the service, which was held at the Jewish Club.<sup>126</sup> Unhappily, however, attendance at daily morning services was extremely poor,<sup>127</sup> and great concern was also felt over the absence of young people between the ages of 16

<sup>122</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 11, 1960, p.2.

<sup>123</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>124</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 20, 1956, p.19.

<sup>125</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, March 20, 1959, p.12.

<sup>126</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66., *Hashalom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 11., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.4] (March, 1959), 35., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>127</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, October 21, 1960, p.6., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

and 22 years from services generally.<sup>128</sup>

A source of continued satisfaction for the Congregation remained the Youth Services, conducted by the children, under adult guidance, at the Park St. Synagogue. Upwards of 200 young boys and girls attended these services every *Shabbat* and on Festivals this number rose to close on 450.<sup>129</sup> Among the visitors to Durban who visited the Youth Service and addressed the children were Rabbi Prof. I. Abrahams of Cape Town,<sup>130</sup> Brigadier Yigal Allon,<sup>131</sup> Mr I. Bavly, the Minister for Israel,<sup>132</sup> and Dr M. Natas, the Cultural Officer of the South African Zionist Federation.<sup>133</sup>

In 1957, the practice of holding a combined Adult-Youth Service on the second day of *Shavuot* was introduced with enormous success<sup>134</sup> and a similar service

<sup>128</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 16, 1957, p.15., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, October 21, 1960, p.6.

<sup>129</sup> *Beshalom Roah Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64., *Beshalom Roah Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 30., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>130</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 20, 1956, p.19.

<sup>131</sup> *Beshalom Roah Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66.

<sup>132</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, August 31, 1956, p.10.

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*, May 24, 1957, p.17.

<sup>134</sup> *Beshalom Roah Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64.

also came to be held in the following year during the *Pesach* festival.<sup>135</sup>

The distress which the Congregation felt over the fact that regular Synagogue services were unable to attract and retain the graduates of the Youth Services,<sup>136</sup> prompted the introduction, in 1958, of an earlier *Shabbat* morning service for older children.<sup>137</sup> Later further steps were taken by the Rabbi to stimulate older youth and to retain their allegiance and ensure their attendance at Synagogue services. They included the formation of a Junior *Talmud* Circle<sup>138</sup> and the successful formation of a *post-barmitsvah* Youth *Minyan* Club in 1960. The Club's Committee, consisting of Jonathan Beare, Chairman; Brian Moshal, Vice-Chairman; Raymond Friedman, Secretary; Wilfred Brewer and Jack Metzger, arranged for members to meet each Sunday at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue and to conduct the service themselves. This was followed by breakfast after which a talk was delivered to the boys by the Rabbi or a discussion on a Jewish topic was held.<sup>139</sup>

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<sup>135</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44.

<sup>136</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 16, 1957, p.15.

<sup>137</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 44.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51.

<sup>139</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960) 33., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64.



The problem that faced the Congregation in respect of its senior youth could not, however, be solved by any one method, just as it could not be attributed to any one particular cause. It would appear that much of the success enjoyed by the Youth Service lay in the fact that these services were conducted by the youth specifically for the youth. The young people were therefore able to feel a sense of involvement and were able to comprehend and participate fully in the services. Upon reaching the age when they were no longer eligible to be participants in the youth services they found themselves in a large synagogue, often largely devoid of worshippers, seeking to follow an order of service with which they were not entirely familiar, in an atmosphere which was, comparatively speaking, rather alien.

As Youth Services, furthermore, catered specifically for younger children many of those who attended such services would have been encouraged, and possibly in some cases, even coerced by their parents to do so. In respect of younger children parental pressure, whether passive or active, was generally far more effective than was the case with older children who would, insofar as synagogue attendance was concerned, more probably have been allowed to decide for themselves whether or not they wished to continue attending services with the adult Congregation.

In addition it should be remembered that young people maturing towards adulthood would have imbibed many of

the attitudes of their parents and their parents' peers, who in many cases placed no great emphasis on synagogue attendance themselves and regarded the youth services as a necessary educational tool. In such cases young people having mastered the rudiments of prayer, and having acquired some knowledge of the order of service, would have felt themselves to be of age when they no longer, like their parents, needed to attend weekly *Shabbat* services. Added to the attitudes imbibed from their homes would have been the rebelliousness characteristic of the young, which when exhausted, often led to conformity and a possible return to the Synagogue once these selfsame young people had passed their early twenties. By this time too many of the young adults, to whom so much concern had been directed, would have become parents themselves and in raising their own children would have felt the need to serve as an example in respect of worship, even if such example demanded attendance of Synagogue on the High Holy Days alone. Coupled with the urge to set an example was the often felt desire to express affiliation to the Jewish community through membership and even minimal attendance at the Synagogue.

The Congregation's interest in its youth was not an isolated expression of concern for the children of the congregants and the community, but a manifestation of a long standing and deep-seated involvement in the educational advancement of the Jewish children of the

City.

This involvement had been constantly demonstrated through the financial and moral support extended by the Congregation and its *Chevrá Kadisha* towards the Durban United Hebrew Schools.<sup>140</sup> It was, furthermore, in no way diminished by the Congregation's decision to proceed with its plans for the building of a new Synagogue on its property in Silverton Road.

Even as plans for the new Synagogue proceeded, work began on levelling a portion of the ground so that playing space would be available for the pupils of the schools once building operations had commenced.<sup>141</sup> At its annual general meeting in 1956, the Congregation also agreed to a 33 per cent rise in seat rentals,<sup>142</sup> largely in order to enable it to meet its communal obligations and particularly in respect of the Durban United Hebrew Schools, a burden which it was felt in certain circles should be shared by all institutions that had the cause of Hebrew education at heart.<sup>143</sup>

In welcoming the news that plans for its new Synagogue were almost complete<sup>144</sup> the Congregation learnt of the proposal of the Durban United Hebrew Schools to

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 53.

<sup>141</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 66.

<sup>142</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 26, 1956, p.14.

<sup>143</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 2-3.

<sup>144</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 26, 1956, p.14.

proceed with the extension of its Day Classes from the beginning of 1958. Although committed to the building of a new Synagogue, the Council of the Congregation nevertheless gave its blessing to this plan to develop a Jewish day school in Durban. Whilst it realised that such a plan would impose further financial burden on the Congregation, the Council understood, that if the educational facilities available to Jewish children were not adequate, there would be no Jews in the years to come to fill the Synagogue.<sup>145</sup>

The Council of the Congregation proceeded to finalise the plans of the new Synagogue and at the annual general meeting, held on October 7, 1957, the members of the Congregation were advised that such plans had been approved by the Municipality.

Tenders for the erection of the new Synagogue were called for, and received on February 4, 1958, and were considered at a special meeting of the Council held on February 24. At the same meeting it appeared that doubts had arisen in the minds of the members of the Council in respect of the correctness of its previous decisions, namely that the building of the Synagogue on the proposed site would not retard the growth of the schools. Consequently the Council considered the acquisition of an alternative site for the building of

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<sup>145</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 64.

the Synagogue. Deliberations on the proposed new Synagogue continued, notwithstanding the Council's doubts, and at the same time meetings were held with those interested in the Schools, and the youth, to discuss the desirability or otherwise of proceeding with the erection of the Synagogue on the old site.<sup>146</sup>

The destruction by fire of the house on the Congregation's property in Silverton Road, in 1958,<sup>147</sup> whilst it deprived the youth, and especially *Babonim* of a *bayit* also removed a minor stumbling block in the way of the Congregation which had been concerned about dispossessing the youth of their meeting place. The Council was, however, deeply troubled by the lack of a venue for youth activity and it welcomed the acquisition of a vacant house opposite the site of the old *bayit*, which was made available to the youth.<sup>148</sup>

At a meeting of the Council of the Congregation, held on October 8, 1958, representatives of the Schools expressed strong opposition to the building of the Synagogue on the site proposed for that purpose, believing that this would retard the growth of the

<sup>146</sup> Report of Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission. Presented to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, March, 1959, p.7.

<sup>147</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, Held on the 17th February, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Mazon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.4.

<sup>148</sup> *Hashalom Bosh Bashana's Annual*, [XXXVII No.] (September, 1958), 44.

schools. The Council therefore decided to refer the whole matter to the Congregation's annual general meeting.<sup>149</sup>

The general meeting of the Congregation, in October 1958, authorised the setting up of a Special Commission to consider the question fully.<sup>150</sup> The Congregation's Council appointed Dr B. Moshal and Messrs A. Beare, L.S. Ditz, P. Frame, A. Stiller, H. Zulman and A. Levine as members of the Commission and chose Mr Sol Moshal to be its chairman.<sup>151</sup> Without wasting of time though only after a most exhaustive investigation, the Commission submitted its Report of the Synagogue/School Area Requirements and its recommendations to the Congregation.

The detailed report recorded the events leading up to the setting up of the Commission, outlined the problems, reviewed the evidence, proposed a number of alternative schemes, and thereafter ended with the Commissioners' recommendations.

From the evidence received it was clear that the members of the Congregation placed the needs of the Durban United Hebrew Schools before those of the

<sup>149</sup> Report of the Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission. Presented to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, March, 1959, p.7.

<sup>150</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVIII No.1 (September, 1959), 51.

<sup>151</sup> Report of the Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission. Presented to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, March, 1959, p.1.

Congregation, although they questioned the wisdom of relocating the proposed new Synagogue. The representatives of the School, having committed themselves to developing a primary school, felt that all the available ground in Silverton Road should be reserved for that purpose and an alternative site found for the erection of the Synagogue.<sup>152</sup>

After a thorough assessment of all the evidence and facts brought before it, the Commission recommended that, as the Congregation was both committed to the building of a new Synagogue and the development of the School, it should proceed with the erection of a Synagogue on the proposed site on the corner of Esscnwood and Silverton Roads. It further recommended that simultaneous steps be taken to find and purchase 8-10 acres of land in a suitable area to facilitate the school's development to its fullest potential and under the best circumstances with adequate sporting and playing areas. It also called for every effort to be made to purchase additional grounds in the immediate vicinity and adjacent to the present site, as, and when, it became available.<sup>153</sup>

The Commission presented its findings to the Synagogue Council in March, 1959, and a few months later, at a special meeting of the Congregation, the

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<sup>152</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.10-11.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.28.30.

Commission's recommendations were approved.<sup>154</sup> Those within the community who continued to question the Congregation's need for a large and elaborate Synagogue, when maximum attendance principally was limited to the High Festivals, were reminded by the Rabbi that many congregants were only too willing to pay a full year's subscription for a visit or two to the Synagogue. The Rabbi also noted that there were other occasions such as Friday nights, *Pesach*, *Simhat Torah*, weddings and special services when large numbers were present at Synagogue. It was, furthermore, common knowledge that there were many who wished to join the Congregation, but, who refrained from doing so when they learnt that there were no seats available in either of the existing Synagogues. At the same time the erection of a large Synagogue indicated that the Congregation was cognisant of the steady increase in the size of the Jewish community and was taking proper steps to prepare for its future needs.<sup>155</sup>

Once the decision to erect the Synagogue had been taken, work began on removing tons of earth in order to level the site, and on finalising plans for the new Synagogue.<sup>156</sup> Considerable interest was aroused by the news that two large stones from Mt. Zion, that had been

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<sup>154</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 11, 1959, p.4.

<sup>155</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 5.

<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 17.



selected by Rabbi Harris Swift, were to be incorporated into the proposed Synagogue,<sup>157</sup> and these were ultimately placed on either side of the *Aron Kadash*.

On July 10, 1960, the Foundation Stone of the new Synagogue was laid by Mr Katriel P. Salmon, the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary for Israel. Almost 500 people attended the ceremony which was addressed by Mr Salmon, Dr N. Smith, the Chairman of the Congregation, and Rabbi Shrock, and which featured musical items rendered by the Congregation's choir.<sup>158</sup>

As construction of the new Synagogue proceeded Congregational interest in the United Hebrew Schools remained unflagging. A decision having been taken to proceed with the opening of a High School, a Committee, headed by Mr A. Stiller, initiated a drive for funds which, notwithstanding the Congregation's heavy financial obligations in respect of the new Synagogue, was widely supported by its members. The Congregation showed its further practical concern for the welfare of the School by erecting a hall at a cost of £1,000,<sup>159</sup> which, with the opening of the Synagogue on the adjoining land was also intended to serve as a venue for children's services. The erection of the new Synagogue, the expansion of the

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<sup>157</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, April 1, 1960, p.20.

<sup>158</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, July 11, 1960, p.12., *South African Jewish Times*, July 22, 1960, p.11.

<sup>159</sup> *Heshalom Bosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64.

Day School and the communal desire for a High School prompted members of the Congregation, at the annual general meeting in 1960, to authorise the purchase of additional ground opposite the present school, to continue negotiations, that were already far advanced, for the purchase of a new school site from the Durban Corporation and to go ahead with plans for building the High School.<sup>160</sup>

The Council also received authority to sell the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, under such conditions as it deemed fit,<sup>161</sup> and at a special general meeting the following year, the disposal of the Synagogue was approved.<sup>162</sup> The passing of the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, which had stood for over half a century, and had served as the Mother Synagogue of the Congregation, filled the congregants with a sense of sadness. As the centre of Congregational life the Synagogue, with its hard benches, the memorial plaques on the walls, the *Bimah*, and the distinctive *Aron Kodesh*, conjured up personal recollections of times of joy and sadness for many of the members.<sup>163</sup> On

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December 9, 1961 the final *Shabbat* service was held at

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<sup>160</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, October 21, 1960, p.6.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>162</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 63.

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*

the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue and was marked by the *burmitzvah* of David Ehrlich.<sup>164</sup>

More than 1,000 members of the Jewish community attended the consecration of the new Great Synagogue on Sunday, December 10, 1961. The service, conducted by Rabbi Shrock, the Rev. Weiss and Cantor F. Metzger, began when the *Siphrei Torah* were brought to the doors of the Synagogue. The Chairman of the Congregation, Mr A. Stiller, then welcomed the worshippers and Mr I. Geshen, the Chairman of the Building Committee was presented with a key by Mr S.N. Tomkin, on behalf of the Associated Architects. Once Mr Geshen had unveiled a Commemoration Stone the doors were opened and the Congregation entered the vestibule where a plaque, recording the names of the Committee and Officers of the Congregation, was unveiled by Mr C. Sternberg, the Chairman of the Building Fund. Thereafter the members took their seats in the Synagogue for the service which lasted some two hours.<sup>165</sup>

The outwardly severe Synagogue building had an entrance hall of marble and wood, in which certain of the monuments from the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue were relocated. The entrance was reached by two impressive flights of steps from Essenwood Road. The

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<sup>164</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, December 7, 1961, p.5.

<sup>165</sup>*Ibid.*, December 11, 1961, p.4., *The Natal Daily News*, December 11, 1961, p.7., *Hachalom*, [XL No.4] [December, 1961], 16, 17, 19, 21.

Foundation Stones of the old St. Andrew's Street Synagogue were located in the wall at the approach to the stairways and served as a perpetual reminder of the former Synagogue. A smaller covered entrance was located at the opposite end of the building specifically for the aged and for brides.

As the building stood on a busy intersection the main auditorium of the Synagogue was surrounded with access corridors so as to exclude all outside sounds. Interior lighting was achieved by a combination of systems. The women's gallery was illuminated through a slanted ceiling honeycombed with glass and lighted from above. Three large modern chandeliers around each of which clustered about 100 bowls of light hung down the centre of the auditorium, and fluorescent lighting under the women's gallery illuminated the seats occupied below by the men.

The auditorium's walls were panelled with afromosia, except for those tiled with grey mosaic stones, and its floor, which rose on every side to meet the walls was covered with red carpeting. Despite its size and its well spaced 1,200 seats, which were almost twice the number available in the Synagogue in St. Andrew's Street, the interior was warm and comfortable without being ornate.

The seating enabled worshippers to face each other across the central aisle, with galleries, above the men's seating, for women worshippers. Above the *Aron Kodesh*,

which was surrounded by the Ten Commandments guarded by two lions and surrounded by a crown, was the choir and organ loft. The *Neir Tamid* hung from the ceiling and was suspended in front of the Ark, which was flanked by two large *Menoret* and the seats for the President and Vice-President of the Synagogue, and the Rabbi. The pulpit from which the Rabbi addressed the Congregation rested on the steps leading up to the Ark, which, together with the seats of the Rabbi and Officers, was on an elevated platform. Facing the Ark on the other side of the Synagogue was the *Bemaḥ* from which the Cantor conducted the services.

The acoustical difficulties arising from the problem of having two sources of sound, one at the choir and pulpit and the other at the opposite end, from the *Bemaḥ*, was overcome by hanging a ceiling especially shaped to reflect sound from the roof trusses of reinforced concrete.

Within the building was a special brides room, in grey, pink and white, furnished by the Durban branch of the Union of Jewish Women, an office and robing room for the Rabbi, robing rooms for the Cantor and choir, and Congregational offices and a board room.<sup>166</sup>

Although far larger than the former St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, it was not long before the Great Synagogue became a spiritual home for its congregants,

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<sup>166</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, December 22, 1961, p.8.

who took pride in their new house of worship which reflected the community's faith in its future, in the future of South Africa, and in the future of the Jewish faith in Durban.

## CHAPTER XLII

THE DURBAN PROGRESSIVEJEWISH CONGREGATION : 1956 - 1961

Having, within a few years of its inception, come to be firmly established in Durban, the Durban Jewish Reform Congregation underwent a period of consolidation and development which was characterised by advances in all avenues of Congregational endeavour.

Renamed the Durban Progressive Jewish Congregation in 1956,<sup>1</sup> the Reform Congregation enjoyed a steady increase in membership and within ten years of its founding the Congregation numbered approximately 350 family units.<sup>2</sup> This growth, in turn, necessitated extensive alterations and additions to the Temple David Centre. These were begun in January 1957, and included a modern five classrooomed block which was built to house the Temple's Hebrew and newly established Nursery Schools. The Centre's buildings were also reconstructed and modernised to incorporate a magnificent hall with a

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<sup>1</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 2nd August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>2</sup> *Basholom Esch Bashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65.

stage, offices, a modern kitchen, and new quarters for the Temple's Black staff.

Only the generosity and co-operation of the Congregation's members made such a building scheme possible. The funds for the building programme were derived principally from the munificent donations by Mr Laurie Da Costa, the Congregation's Honorary Secretary, other members of the Temple, and contributions from visitors and non-members to the Building Fund. Members, however, gave not only financial assistance but also contributed their technical skills. Thus Mr J. Blumenfeld served as honorary architect, Mr D. Levy took charge of the building of the new school and Mr G. Saul built the reconstructed Centre.<sup>3</sup>

On May 12, 1957, the Centre was opened by Mr N.S. Gilder, the President of the Temple, and the Hebrew School was opened by Mr H.G. Friede, a member of the Council of the Congregation. Among those present at the function were Rabbi Dr M.C. Weiler, Mr D.G. Shepstone, the Administrator of Natal; Councillor P. Osborn, the Mayor of Durban; Mr G. Doron, Consul General for Israel; Mr L.S. Ditz, the President of the Council of Natal Jewry; and representatives of

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*



Jewish and Gentile organisations in the City.<sup>4</sup>

A milestone in the history of Reform Judaism in Durban was attained in August 1960, when the Congregation celebrated the *Barmitzva*h of its founding, which also coincided with the tenth anniversary of Rabbi Miller's arrival in the City.<sup>5</sup> A special *Shabbat* Eve Service and *Oneg Shabbat* was held at the Temple on August 26, to suitably commemorate this event.<sup>6</sup> The joy of the occasion was however, somewhat marred by the tragic death only a few months earlier of Councillor Mervyn Gild, the Congregation's founder and Honorary Life President.<sup>7</sup>

The rapid progress recorded by the Progressive community of Durban was in large measure ascribed to the drive, initiative and devotion of Rabbi Miller, the Congregation's religious leader, who stood at the hub of the Congregation's activities.<sup>8</sup>

As spiritual head of a steadily increasing flock, Rabbi Miller ministered to an ever-growing number of worshippers who attended the Temple David, especially

<sup>4</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 13, 1957, p.13., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65.

<sup>5</sup> *Hasholom*, [XXXVIII No.12] (August, 1960), 3.

<sup>6</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, August 26, 1960, p.8.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, May 20, 1960, p.1.

<sup>8</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65.

over the High Holy Day period. The *Shabbat* Eve services which he conducted remained the most well attended services during the year, largely as a result of his alternating the time of the services from 6 pm to 8 pm respectively.<sup>9</sup>

Great pride too was taken by the Congregation in the Temple's choir under the chairmanship of Mr W. Habermann, whose singing not only enhanced the services but gained for the choir a countrywide reputation for its outstanding choral work.<sup>10</sup>

Services of a special nature that were conducted in the Temple in this period included one held in January 1959 to mark the *Barmitzuck* of the Durban branch of the *Magen David Adom*,<sup>11</sup> as well as annual services to mark *Yom Hashoah* and the Jewish Day of Remembrance for victims of the Nazi Holocaust.<sup>12</sup> From 1959, it also became customary for the Temple to hold a service to

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>11</sup> *Heshalom*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 29.

<sup>12</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

coincide with the Women's World Day of Prayer.<sup>13</sup>

Rabbi Miller furthermore officiated on April 8, 1956, at the opening ceremony for a new ward at the ToCH T.B. Settlement at Botha's Hill which had been erected through the generosity of Mr M. Gild, the Founder and Honorary Life President of the Reform Congregation.<sup>14</sup> He also conducted the Annual Memorial Service, held at the Reform section of the Jewish cemetery prior to *Yom Kippur*. At such a service, in October 1959, the Rabbi consecrated a monument to the six million Jewish victims of Nazism. The simple Grecian style pillar surmounted by a symbolic white urn, with an inscription in Hebrew and English, was donated to the Progressive Congregation by Mr Alex Ascoli. It was unveiled by Mr H.G. Friede, the Congregation's President, and Mr R. Isaacs, the Chairman of the Reform Burial Committee.<sup>15</sup>

When under the auspices of the School Committee, a series of traditional *Shabbat* meals was inaugurated in 1959, and over successive Friday evenings different families were brought together to celebrate the *Shabbat* in the Temple Hall, the Rabbi and Mrs Miller assumed

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<sup>13</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 12, 1959, p.7., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>14</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 9, 1956, p.7., *Haskalom*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 30.

<sup>15</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, October 12, 1959, p.3., *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 33.

charge of these services as well.<sup>16</sup>

Apart from his work as minister and preacher, Rabbi Miller found time to teach the children, to run Bible study classes and Hebrew lessons for adults, to visit the sick and to engage in Jewish communal work. Notwithstanding these commitments he was nevertheless extremely active within the wider community in which his Congregation functioned. He attended meetings of the Natal War Memorial Health Foundation<sup>17</sup> and served on the Committee of the Marriage Guidance Council,<sup>18</sup> of which he was subsequently appointed a Vice-Chairman.<sup>19</sup> He was also a member of the Mental Health Society<sup>20</sup> and came in time to sit on the Society's Executive.<sup>21</sup> The Rabbi served, furthermore, on the Council of the South African Institute of Race Relations.<sup>22</sup>

A firm believer in inter-faith activities,

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 31., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56.

<sup>17</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>20</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

Rabbi Miller arranged for various visits from people of other faiths to the Temple and also for prominent clergymen to address some of the Congregation's monthly *Ongel Shabbat*.<sup>23</sup> He gave expression to his beliefs in this regard by conducting morning prayer at the International Youth Arts Festival in 1956, and by addressing Divinity students at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg.<sup>24</sup> His personal involvement in the Department of Divinity at the University led to the Rabbi opening up relations with the University authorities in respect of introducing courses in Jewish culture and Hebrew.<sup>25</sup> Arising from these early exploratory negotiations, that had been pioneered by Rabbi Miller,<sup>26</sup> a course in Hebrew was ultimately introduced at the University's Durban branch in January 1959.<sup>27</sup> In time this was followed by the creation of a Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies in 1970.<sup>28</sup>

Widely known and respected through his involvement in communal life in the City, and acknowledged as the

<sup>23</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 29., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>24</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 3, 1959, p.8.

<sup>25</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 1st November, 1956, at 8 pm., pp.5-6.

<sup>26</sup> *Haskalom*, [XLIX No.8] (May, 1971), 5.

<sup>27</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 3, 1959, p.8.

<sup>28</sup> *The Daily News*, October 28, 1970, pp.1-2.

spiritual leader of a small but, nevertheless, not insignificant section of the Jewish community, Rabbi Miller was invited to attend the Memorial Service held in the City Hall, in August 1958, to mark the passing of the Prime Minister, Mr J.G. Strydom.<sup>29</sup> In like manner he attended a Civic At Home, in September 1961, in honour of the Rev. Andre de Villiers, the Moderator Elect of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa.<sup>30</sup> Generally, however, it was his Orthodox counterpart, whose Congregation was the larger, who was invited to represent the Jewish community at Civic and inter-denominational affairs.

In 1961, Rabbi Miller celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination, and a reception to mark this important milestone was given in his honour at the Jewish Club.<sup>31</sup> To coincide with this anniversary Rabbi Miller was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City.<sup>32</sup> This honour indicated how widely known and respected Durban's Reform Rabbi had indeed become. The award was made by Dr Nelson Glueck, the President of America's seminary

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<sup>29</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, August 29, 1958, p.13.

<sup>30</sup>*Ibid.*, September, 7, 1961, p.7.

<sup>31</sup>*Hashaalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>32</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, June 21, 1961, p.3.

of Liberal Judaism, in recognition of Rabbi Miller's outstanding contribution to religious and civil life. The accompanying citation saluted Rabbi Miller as, "an able interpreter of Judaism abroad and at home as Army Chaplain and Rabbi, outstanding communal leader who has preached and lived the ideals of Israel's prophets in exemplary fashion."<sup>33</sup>

The pride which, as headmaster, Rabbi Miller took in the Temple's Hebrew and Religious School was shared by his Congregants who regarded it as a vital adjunct of Congregational life. The progress and development which characterised the Reform Movement in Durban in this period was mirrored in the school, which at this time grew in all directions.

Indicative of this trend was the ambitious building programme which was begun in January 1956,<sup>34</sup> and was brought to fruition in 1957, with the opening of a new school building at the Temple David on May 12 of that year.<sup>35</sup> In the interim, as construction work was taking place the School was admitted as a Constituent member of the Council of Natal Jewry.<sup>36</sup> This not only

<sup>33</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, June 30, 1961, p.9.

<sup>34</sup> *Haskolam Roah Rashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67.

<sup>35</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 13, 1957, p.13.

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, 7th February, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7.

enhanced its status but testified to its increasingly important role within the community, and the Jewish community's acknowledgement of this fact.

To cater more effectively for the needs of its members' children the Temple not only continued with its branch school in Durban North but also opened a class for a short time in the Beach area.<sup>37</sup> From 1958, a branch school was conducted at Westville.<sup>38</sup> This initially created a sharp difference of opinion on the Council of Natal Jewry, which, in view of the fact that the Orthodox Congregation conducted Hebrew classes at the identical venue, objected to two teachers being sent great distances to teach a few pupils of each section when it was felt that a single teacher could meet the requirements of both Reform and Orthodox children.<sup>39</sup> The Progressive Congregation was obviously persistent in its demand that it be allowed to conduct classes for its own children in Westville, for its branch school in that area continued to function, subsidised by a subvention from the Council of Natal Jewry.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 16, 1957, p.10.,  
January 17, 1958, p.10.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, January 17, 1958, p.10., January 15, 1959,  
p.10.

<sup>39</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held on Thursday, 5th June, 1958, at the Durban Jewish Club, at 8 pm., pp.5-6.

<sup>40</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, 4th June, 1959, at 8 pm., p.7.



The growth of the school corresponded with an upsurge in parental interest which led to the creation of a Parent-Teacher Association in 1958.<sup>41</sup> The P.T.A. arranged numerous functions in conjunction with the School Committee and served as a valuable channel for communication between the school and the parent body. One of the Association's major achievements was its fundraising efforts for the establishment of a reference library for the School.<sup>42</sup>

The most accurate gauge of the schools' expansion lay, however, in the increase in the size of the student body, which by 1958, had already reached 110.<sup>43</sup> These pupils comprised two groups, those who attended on *Shabbat* mornings only and those who attended on *Shabbat* mornings plus two afternoons during the week.<sup>44</sup> As the Temple's School was a supplementary school, it did not teach any secular subjects, but devoted its time to the teaching of Hebrew and religious instruction. This was achieved through modern teaching methods and the most up to date visual aids.<sup>45</sup> All the classes were graded according to the age group of the pupils and

<sup>41</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>42</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 37.

<sup>43</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 29.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

corresponded to the standards in which they were of Government schools. With the opening of a Standard VI class in 1958 post *Bar/Batmitzvah* classes were instituted with considerable success.<sup>46</sup>

As attendance at the Temple's School was voluntary it was extremely difficult for the school authorities to force parents to bring children to the school when they commenced their secular education. Consequently children who began late found themselves at a far lower level than that of their classmates. By virtue of its supplementary school status the teachers also had to constantly urge parents to take the work at Hebrew school as seriously as Government school and to impress this upon their children.<sup>47</sup>

Since the school existed solely to serve the religious needs of the Reform Congregation in respect of the education of its youth, its upkeep had to be borne almost entirely by the Congregation's members. This was in part relieved by the allocation which the school received from the Durban Jewish Community Chest, to which it had been admitted in 1951.<sup>48</sup> The amount of money received from the Chest was in proportion to the manner in which the Union for Progressive Jewish

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> *Haskalah*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 37.

<sup>48</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th July, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.1-2.

Education received an allocation from the United Communal Fund,<sup>49</sup> and went some way towards helping the school to meet its evergrowing costs.

Notwithstanding the problems inherent in maintaining a supplementary Hebrew and religious school, the Congregation regarded its efforts to be fully justified by the competent manner in which the school's graduates acquitted themselves at their *Barmitzva* and *Batmitzva* ceremonies. As was true of other Hebrew supplementary schools there was a tendency, however, among pupils of the Temple's School to discontinue their Hebrew and religious studies after their thirteenth year. This trend was greatly regretted by the teaching staff and the School Committee, and various ways were sought to retain the interest and involvement of the post-*Bar/Batmitzva* classes. Post-*Barmitzva* pupils were for example, encouraged to take an active part in the *Shabbat* services and were generally invited to return on the anniversary of their *Barmitzva* to once again read their *Torah* portion and *Haftorah*. Young members of the Congregation who had gone through the school curriculum also continued the tradition of the Temple by conducting all the Festival morning services.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> Report of the Executive of the Council of Natal Jewry, To Be Presented at the 21st Annual General Meeting, to be Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1952, at 8 pm., p.18.

<sup>50</sup> *Heshalon Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 58.

A further innovation which proved to be extremely popular with the older youth and which kept them active and involved in Temple life, was the creation of a Youth Group in 1956, under the direction of Mr Ronald Golding.<sup>51</sup> Its members met every week at the Temple Centre where they were provided with a varied programme of cultural and social entertainment.

Through the close harmony which existed between the Youth Group and other youth bodies in the City the young members of the Temple were afforded the opportunity to come into contact with their peers in the Jewish community who were affiliated to other youth societies.<sup>52</sup> Under the supervision of Mr Peter Friede the Youth Group flourished on the social, cultural and religious levels and was judged to be a model of good organisation.<sup>53</sup> Its demise, which was brought about by a crisis of leadership, was therefore all the more disappointing to those in the Temple concerned with the wellbeing and advancement of their youth.

This development was, however, partly offset by the creation of a day camp at the school during the summer holidays in January 1960. Camp *Shalom*, under the direction of Mr J. Friedman, and his assistants

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<sup>51</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67.

<sup>52</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 57.

Hazel Freedman and Glen Brazil, proved even more successful than had been anticipated<sup>54</sup> and was repeated, with equal success in the following year.<sup>55</sup>

Concern for the spiritual development of its youth in no way minimised the interest of the School authorities in the younger children of the Congregation. Whilst parental pressure was sufficiently effective to ensure the regular attendance of such children at classes and *Shabbat* services, participation in the Junior Choir, which performed regularly on *Shabbat* mornings, also served as a further check on absenteeism and an effective tool for teaching the prayers and the order of service.<sup>56</sup>

A major advance in respect of the educational facilities at Temple David was the creation of the Davida Nursery School in January 1957.<sup>57</sup> The school not only served to provide a foundation for the Hebrew-Religious School but enabled the School authorities to begin their programme of religious instruction with an even younger category of children. Opened with an

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<sup>54</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 37., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68.

<sup>55</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 11, 1961, p.3., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>56</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 38.

<sup>57</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, November 29, 1956, p.12.

enrollment of 16 children, under the charge of Mrs Donde<sup>58</sup> the Nursery School grew considerably after May 1957, when it moved into the newly erected school building. By 1959, it had its full complement of 30 children<sup>59</sup> and enjoyed the support of an extremely active Parent-Teacher Association, under the chairmanship of Dr Pauline Klenerman,<sup>60</sup> and was recognised by the Nursery School Association and the Provincial authorities.<sup>61</sup>

Of great importance to the whole fabric of Congregational life of the Progressive Jewish community, was the Sisterhood of Temple David, which not only served the needs of the Congregation, but also felt a moral imperative to work within the wider community of Durban.

In respect of the Progressive Congregation its activities centred principally on catering for Temple functions<sup>62</sup> and for the *Pessach Seder* held each year at

<sup>58</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVI No.1] (September, 1957), 65.

<sup>59</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>62</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.5 (February, 1956), 31.

the Temple Centre.<sup>63</sup> Its members regularly visited the sick,<sup>64</sup> and from its ranks were drawn the women workers for the Reform *Chevra Kadisha*.<sup>65</sup> By virtue of its composition, the Sisterhood also came to be closely associated with the service which was held annually from 1959 at the Temple to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer.<sup>66</sup>

The Sisterhood engaged in extensive fundraising activities that not only served to swell the Temple's coffers but also helped to finance the Sisterhood's numerous community projects.<sup>67</sup> Among its principle efforts in this regard were a piano recital by Lionel Bowman and the premiere of the film *The Bolshoi Ballet* in 1958;<sup>68</sup> a dinner party at the home of

<sup>63</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 57., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66., *Hashalom*, [XLI No.3] (November, 1962), 48.

<sup>64</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 39.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 37.

<sup>66</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 12, 1959, p.7., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 57.

<sup>68</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, March 18, 1958, p.2., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

Councillor and Mrs Mervyn Gild in 1959;<sup>69</sup> and a gala premiere of the film *San Hux* in 1960.<sup>70</sup> Further revenues were also derived from the small shop that was maintained at the Temple Centre, and from the sale of work by the organisation's sewing group.<sup>71</sup>

Funds so raised enabled the Sisterhood to contribute to the M.C. Weiler Research Scholarship, the South African Union of Temple Sisterhood's Bursary and the Leo Baeck Secondary School Scholarship. A bursary of £25 was also created in the name of the Sisterhood to help a student at the Natal University non-European Medical School to meet his expenses.<sup>72</sup>

The Sisterhood devoted a major portion of its funds to its welfare work within the general community, where it made a significant contribution to enhancing the quality of life of the local population. Whilst it continued to care for the Nobantwana Nursery School at Chesterville it extended its nursery school programme to

<sup>69</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, August 28, 1959, p.9.

<sup>70</sup>*Ibid.*, September 2, 1960, p.9.

<sup>71</sup>*Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 33., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 39.

<sup>72</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 17.



include a sewing class for Black mothers.<sup>73</sup> In 1957 it took the Phillippian Nursery School at Cato Manor under its wing,<sup>74</sup> and within a year of the school coming under its supervision attendance increased from 28 to 102 children.<sup>75</sup> Members of the Sisterhood regularly visited the schools to keep a check on the needs of the children and the state of the premises, and arranged an annual Christmas party for the pupils of both of its schools.<sup>76</sup> Similar attention was also paid by the Sisterhood to the Manossa school in Cato Manor which it adopted in 1958.<sup>77</sup> With the transfer of the residents of Cato Manor to Kwa Mashu, the Sisterhood adopted two schools in the new Black township to replace those in Cato Manor that had fallen away, and provided them with a regular supply of fruit and vegetables.<sup>78</sup>

All the while the Sisterhood continued to maintain and to periodically visit its ward at the Toch T.B. Settlement at Botha's Hill.<sup>79</sup> It was active, furthermore,

<sup>73</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65.

<sup>75</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 29.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>77</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>78</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 39.

<sup>79</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 57.

outside of its regular programme of welfare activities, and contributed, for example, to the relief fund<sup>80</sup> set up to aid victims of the floods which struck Natal in May 1959.<sup>81</sup> At the same time it adopted five of the Indian families who were left destitute by the floods and provided them with weekly food parcels.<sup>82</sup> In 1960, the Sisterhood catered at the opening of the Coloured hostel for the Blind,<sup>83</sup> and also held a Christmas party for the children at the Bantu Social Centre.<sup>84</sup>

The outstanding work performed by the Sisterhood's welfare section not only served as a vehicle whereby its members could give expression to the Jewish social values which they upheld, but was also an important instrument for public relations work within the wider community. It brought honour to the Sisterhood and to the Congregation which it represented, as well as to the entire Jewish community of which it was an important part.

In seeking to serve others the Sisterhood nevertheless remained mindful of the needs of its own members and for their benefit it ran a highly successful programme of cultural activities. Its 'Get Together

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<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 57.

<sup>81</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 18, 1959, p.1.

<sup>82</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 37.

<sup>83</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68.

<sup>84</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 39.

Club' continued to meet each month at the Temple Centre for varied cultural functions.<sup>85</sup> From 1960 this Club was discontinued and a new Thursday Morning Club was organised along identical lines.<sup>86</sup> The programme of activities that it provided for its members included lectures, film shows and piano recitals,<sup>87</sup> plays,<sup>88</sup> cooking, floral art and interior decorating demonstrations.<sup>89</sup>

In perceiving its role to extend beyond the confines of its Congregation and into the Jewish community as a whole, the Sisterhood remained affiliated to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and to the Council of Natal Jewry, which was the Board's Provincial Committee.<sup>90</sup> The Sisterhood was represented on the Durban branch of the Union of Jewish Women,<sup>91</sup> with whom it co-operated on

<sup>85</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67., *Ibid.*, XXXVII No.1 (September, 1958), 47., *The Natal Mercury*, February 19, 1959, p.7., April 7, 1959, p.18.

<sup>86</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.6] (February, 1960), 27.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, *The Natal Mercury*, May 18, 1960, p.7., June 15, 1960, p.9., *The Natal Daily News*, March 15, 1961, p.11.

<sup>88</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 39., *The Natal Daily News*, March 15, 1961, p.11.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*, March 15, 1961, p.11.

<sup>90</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*

a number of joint projects,<sup>92</sup> and was also represented on the Durban Women's Zionist League<sup>93</sup> which it assisted annually at the WIZO Fete.<sup>94</sup> It also served on the Durban Jewish Welfare Association<sup>95</sup> and in 1960, together with the Welfare Association, the Council of Natal Jewry, the Durban Jewish Club and the Union of Jewish Women, the Sisterhood formed a committee to assist Jewish refugees fleeing the Congo.<sup>96</sup>

Through its membership of the National Union of Temple Sisterhoods<sup>97</sup> the Sisterhood of Temple David was able to play an important role in national Reform activities. In 1961, a past chairman of the Sisterhood, Mrs Margaret Habermann, was in fact elected the National President of the South African Union of Temple Sisterhoods,<sup>98</sup> much to the joy of the members of Temple David who took great pride in this notable achievement.

<sup>92</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.6] (April, 1960), 35.,  
*Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 15.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, [XLI No.3] (November, 1962), 48.

<sup>94</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.3] (November, 1957), 33., *The Zionist Record*, December 12, 1958, p.13., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68.

<sup>95</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 31.

<sup>96</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Communal Offices on Tuesday, 13th September, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.

<sup>97</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 46.

<sup>98</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 39.,  
*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

Just as the Sisterhood drew strength from its membership of the National Union, so too the Congregation benefited enormously from its links with the Progressive Congregations in other parts of South Africa and with the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Such ties served to offset the relative isolation of the Durban Progressive Jewish Congregation which functioned as the sole Progressive Congregation in Natal, and enabled it to keep fully abreast of, and involved in, matters relating to Progressive Judaism.

The Congregation's minister Rabbi Miller occupied a central place within the South African Union for Progressive Judaism serving for a term as chairman of the Union's Ecclesiastical Board. In this capacity he concluded the consecration service of the Temple Hillel in East London in 1958,<sup>99</sup> and delivered the address at the induction of Rabbi Robert L. Zimmerman at Temple Israel, Johannesburg, in January 1959.<sup>100</sup>

With the creation in 1958, of the Rabbinical Association of South Africa, all Rabbis and ministers who were graduates of recognised Rabbinical Colleges and who served the Progressive Movement, were made eligible for membership and Rabbi Miller was elected the Association's first chairman.<sup>101</sup> Durban's Reform Rabbi

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<sup>99</sup> *The Zionist Record*, September 19, 1958, p.12.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*, January 30, 1959, p.8.

<sup>101</sup> *Hanhala*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 33.

also played a leading part in the first National Conference of Progressive Hebrew and Judaism Teachers organised by the South African Council for Progressive Jewish Education at the Alan Isaacs Camp in April 1960.<sup>102</sup> A year later he was in fact made a Vice-Chairman of the South African Council for Progressive Jewish Education.<sup>103</sup>

Through its Rabbi the Durban Progressive Jewish Congregation thus played a significant role in national affairs of the Reform Movement. Members of the Congregation, however, were also in frequent contact with the National Union through conferences and meetings of the Union, and on at least one occasion, in 1959, Durban served as the venue for an Executive Meeting of the South African Union for Progressive Judaism.<sup>104</sup>

Contact with the World Union of Progressive Judaism was maintained through participation by delegates from the Durban Congregation in conferences of the World Union that were held abroad.<sup>105</sup> A matter of considerable pride for the Durban Progressive Jewish

<sup>102</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, April 22, 1960, p.14.

<sup>103</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 56.

<sup>105</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 65., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 13., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 68., *The Natal Mercury*, May 13, 1961, p.7.

Congregation in 1961 was the election of its Rabbi to the world Union's Governing Body.<sup>106</sup>

Prominent visitors from abroad and from other centres in South Africa further served to keep the Durban Progressive Jewish Congregation in touch with other Progressive Congregations and with leading personalities of the Reform Movement, gave renewed strength to the officers and members of the Congregation. Foremost amongst these visitors in this period, were Rabbi Ferdinand Isserman, of St. Louis in the United States of America,<sup>107</sup> the Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, who visited Durban in January 1956;<sup>108</sup> Sir Basil Henriques C.B.E., Vice-President of the World Union who addressed the Congregation twelve months later;<sup>109</sup> Rabbi Dr R. Brasch, Chief Minister of Temple Emmanuel in Sydney, Australia, the Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Board of Progressive Judaism in that country and a member of the Governing Body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, who came to Durban in March, 1960;<sup>110</sup> and Rabbi Michael Elton, Chairman of the Central Ecclesiastical Board of the

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<sup>106</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XL No.1 (September, 1961), 66.

<sup>107</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.5 (February, 1956), 31.

<sup>108</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 67.

<sup>109</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, December 7, 1956, p.9.

<sup>110</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, April, 1960, p.5.

South African Union for Progressive Judaism, who visited the Temple David in July, 1961.<sup>111</sup>

With its record of growth and expansion in this period Reform Judaism consolidated its position which it had secured within the communal life of Durban Jewry. Under its Rabbi, who served as a catalyst and inspiration for Congregational activity, and who enjoyed a pre-eminent position in the Jewish and general communities of the City, and in the national and international Progressive Jewish Movement, the Temple and its related activities flourished, encouraged by the support and inspiration of the Reform Congregations in South Africa and by the World Union of Progressive Judaism.

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<sup>111</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, July 14, 1961, p.3.



## CHAPTER XLIII

THE PROGRESS OF  
HEBREW EDUCATION : 1956 - 1961

The rapid strides forward in respect of Jewish education in the post-World War II decade escalated during the subsequent five years and came to be a major focus of communal interest and activity.

By 1956, it could be stated with pride that almost every Jewish child in Durban was receiving some Hebrew education and that, under Mr Ernst's direction, Hebrew education was making splendid progress. The schools were already becoming too small and intimation in respect of their possible expansion was hinted at.<sup>1</sup>

The number of pupils in the various branches of the Durban United Hebrew Schools stood in 1956, at 460, which placed a severe strain on the existing facilities of the schools. Both the Sharona and Ilana Nursery Schools had their full complement of pupils. Kindergarten classes, notwithstanding the resignation of Mrs Cotterell after 25 years of devoted service, were flourishing at Silverton Road, and afternoon classes were

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<sup>1</sup>*The Zionist Record*, April 20, 1956, p.13.

held at both the main schools and at Westville, Escombe and the Beach. In addition lunch hour classes were also held for a few high school boys who wished to further their Hebrew and Jewish studies.<sup>2</sup> The Youth Services continued to serve as an important adjunct to the schools and the Youth Forum which had been created under Mr Ernst's direction persevered in its efforts to provide past, and senior pupils of the schools, with Jewish cultural and social activities.<sup>3</sup>

In respect of the Hebrew education offered by the Durban United Hebrew Schools the children in the Sharona and Ilana nursery schools were familiarised with a large number of Hebrew songs, they acquired a simple Hebrew vocabulary and were taught about the Jewish festivals. Moral and ethical principles were inculcated and were evidenced as the children brought gifts to be distributed to those less privileged than themselves.

For those who attended the morning school there were daily prayers and Bible stories and the celebration of *Shabbat* and the Festivals. Within the framework of the school syllabus pupils also received a full hour's Hebrew tuition daily.

The afternoon classes, which children attended a minimum of three times a week, a great deal of advantage was lost owing to these classes being held after normal

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<sup>2</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 67.

school hours. The school was, nevertheless, greatly encouraged by the increasing number of pupils who took Hebrew for matriculation.

The Hebrew teachers at the school were, furthermore, responsible for preparing the children who were taking the *barmitsvah* and *batmitsvah* tests that were prescribed by the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, with whom the school enjoyed a most intimate working relationship.<sup>4</sup>

Although the standard of Hebrew education had undoubtedly improved over the years the murmurings within the community in regard to expanding the schools were considerably bolstered by the report of Mr I. Goss, the Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education, who believed that nothing short of a Hebrew Day School would be capable of giving the children a reasonably sound Jewish education.<sup>5</sup>

In February 1957, after a series of three meetings between the School's Committee and the Council of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, at each of which it had been agreed to go ahead with the establishment of a Day School, the decision was brought to the Executive of the Council of Natal Jewry for its blessing. The plan of the School authorities called for the establishment of a Standard II class in 1958, and for the addition thereafter of a standard every year, until at

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<sup>4</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1947), 18-19.

<sup>5</sup> *Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63.

least Standard VI. At this stage no capital expenditure was envisaged, as the school building in Silverton Road had sufficient classrooms to facilitate the school's expansion. The only additional expenditure which had to be considered was in respect of extra teachers salaries. With increased enrolment of scholars, revenues would correspondingly increase, and in this way the school largely hoped to meet its increased running costs.<sup>6</sup>

The major critics of the scheme on the Council of Natal Jewry's Executive were primarily concerned with the financial implications of the project. A larger body of opinion within the Executive felt, however, that the problem of finance should not be allowed to baulk the natural and desirable development of the Day School. A motion expressing the Executive's pleasure and approval of the intention to extend the Day School from the beginning of 1958 was, consequently, carried by a large majority.<sup>7</sup>

Preparations for the extension of the morning school, as a first step towards establishing a Jewish Day School, to be named Sharona Primary School, were well in hand by mid-1957.<sup>8</sup> Distinctive uniforms and badges

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<sup>6</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 7th February, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.5-7.

<sup>8</sup> *The Zionist Record*, August 16, 1957, p.8.

were designed and all other necessary steps were taken for the successful establishment of the scheme.<sup>9</sup>

The creation of the Jewish Day School on sound foundations was the crowning achievement of Mr Sam Ernst's distinguished career as an educator in Durban. It was most appropriate that this event should have coincided with the fulfillment of twenty one years of service by Mr Ernst to the Jewish community of Durban and the community with the blessing of the C.N.J., took steps to suitably mark this most unusual milestone.<sup>10</sup> In February 1958, the community gave a luncheon at the Durban Jewish Club in honour of Mr and Mrs Ernst. Tributes were paid by them by Mr Leon Lewis, the Chairman of the Jewish Club, and Dr Nathan Smith, the Chairman of the Jewish Education Council, the latter presenting Mr Ernst with a letter of congratulations, signed by the acting President of the Council of Natal Jewry, the President of the Hebrew Congregation, the Chairman of the Jewish Education Council and the President of the Schools' Committee. Mr Ernst was also given a cheque to which the entire community had been invited to contribute.<sup>11</sup>

A further tribute to Mr Ernst's sterling qualities as an educationalist was his inclusion, together with

<sup>9</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 67.

<sup>10</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 25.

<sup>11</sup> *The Zionist Record*, March 21, 1958, p.7.

Mr I. Goss, the Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education, and Mr M. Natas, the Cultural Officer of the South African Zionist Federation, in the official South African delegation to the World Congress of Hebrew Teachers and Educationalists, held in Jerusalem, in July 1958.<sup>12</sup>

By October 1958, only a few months after the extension of the kindergarten, the morning school had grown from 50 to 81 pupils and Sharona Primary School comprised Class I-Standard II.<sup>13</sup> Provision was made for sporting facilities and cricket, soccer and tennis were played under the supervision of expert instructors. The Jewish content, which was the most notable characteristic of the school, was clearly demonstrated in the celebration of the Festivals and the strong link with Israel through the Jewish National Fund.<sup>14</sup>

The advances made by Sharona Primary School tended, however, to overshadow the progress that was being made by the other branches of the Durban United Hebrew Schools. Both the Sharona and Ilans Nursery Schools had reached their full complement and serious consideration began to be given to their expansion,

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<sup>12</sup>Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, Held on Wednesday, 18th June, 1958, at 5.15 pm., at the Maon, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.

<sup>13</sup>*Baskalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 33.

<sup>14</sup>*Baskalom Hosh Bashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 45.

particularly in Durban North, in order to cope with the large number of children who were seeking to gain admittance.<sup>15</sup>

By 1958, the afternoon classes had an enrollment of no less than 282 pupils.<sup>16</sup> The main branch, in Silverton Road, had thirteen classes and Durban North had five classes, and all the classes were properly graded into standards. In addition regular classes continued to be held at the Jewish Club, Westville and Escombe. The teachers followed the unified syllabus of the South African Board of Jewish Education and a considerable number of pupils proved capable of including Hebrew among their subjects for matriculation.<sup>17</sup>

In the light of the programme of expansion embarked on by the school authorities in respect of the morning school, the members of the Council of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation came to reconsider the wisdom of their plan to proceed with the building of a new Synagogue on the land adjoining the school.<sup>18</sup> At the annual general meeting of the Congregation, in October 1958, it was resolved to set up a Commission to fully consider the area requirements of the Synagogue

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<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVI No.1] (September, 1957), 67.

<sup>18</sup> Report of Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission. Presented to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, March 1959, p.7.

and the School.<sup>19</sup> In evidence submitted to the Commission the representatives of the Durban United Hebrew Schools pressed for the congregation to relocate its proposed Synagogue, as they felt that the development of the Synagogue on the proposed site would retard the day school's growth and hamper its development.<sup>20</sup> The need for space for the school to grow and for adequate well laid out and equipped playing fields for the pupils physical development and recreational enjoyment, clashed with the necessity for the Congregation to proceed with the building of its new Synagogue on the centrally located site at the corner of Essenwood and Silverton Roads.<sup>21</sup>

After carefully evaluating the evidence submitted by the interested parties, the Commission presented its report to the Synagogue Council in March 1959. At a subsequent special general meeting of the Congregation the findings of the Commission were accepted, and its recommendations approved.<sup>22</sup> The Congregation resolved to build a new Synagogue on the original site adjoining the School and at the same time promised to acquire a

<sup>19</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 51.

<sup>20</sup> Reports of Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission. Presented to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, March 1959, p.11.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.10-11.

<sup>22</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 11, 1959, p.4.



site of approximately ten acres for the further requirements of the school. This land was to facilitate the possible erection of a high school and its amenities and to allow for future extensions to the primary school. The Congregation also committed itself to acquiring additional sites in the vicinity of Silverton Road for educational purposes, when they became available.<sup>23</sup>

In presenting its evidence to the Commission the delegation from the Durban United Hebrew Schools forecast that the number of pupils at the school would not exceed 250 in 5 years time. It claimed that the existing site, plus the additional land earmarked for the new Synagogue would be capable of catering for the anticipated 250 day scholars and it further maintained that these requirements, "would be adequate for the indefinite future as it was not anticipated that there would be a demand for the establishment of a high school."<sup>24</sup> The pace with which Jewish education, in fact, developed in Durban clearly exceeded the expectations of the school authorities. By 1964, only five years after the Commission had sat to receive evidence, the number of pupils in the Day School, which included Sharona Primary School, had risen to 420, ranging from Class 1 to Standard VIII, and a modern high

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<sup>23</sup>Chairlady's Report to the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Synagogue Women's Guild, 1959, p.1.

<sup>24</sup>Report of Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission, Presented to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, March, 1959, pp.11-12.

school, Carmel College, had officially been opened on a site in Glenmore.<sup>25</sup>

The decisions arrived at by the Congregation, at the special general meeting in March 1959, would therefore appear to have been justified by the subsequent course of events in respect of Hebrew education. At the time the rejection of its recommendations must, nevertheless, have caused the school authorities to feel a tinge of sadness. Their disappointment, had no marked effect, however, on the close relations that had always existed between the Schools and the Orthodox Congregation. Although it was true that the Durban United Hebrew Schools Committee was an autonomous body, it was equally true that developments within the Day School were dependant on the approval and active support of the Congregation. This dependance and support had in no way diminished in this period, nor was it affected by the decision of the special general meeting. The Congregation, together with its *Chavura Kadisha* and the Durban Jewish Community Chest, remained the principal sources of financial support for the schools which also received lesser amounts from the Durban branch of the Union of Jewish Women and the Durban Jewish Club. Upon the registration of the School's Endowment Trust Fund, in 1956, members of the Orthodox Congregation also came

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<sup>25</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL III No.1] (September, 1964), 74.

to be amongst the Trust's most generous supporters.<sup>26</sup>

If anything, the course of action determined by the Congregation at the special general meeting, bound the members to even greater financial commitments in respect of the schools, for, notwithstanding the costs which had to be met in respect of the new Synagogue, the Congregants had committed themselves to finding further funds for the acquisition of land and the development of facilities for the growing Day School.

By the time that the Durban United Hebrew School met for its annual general meeting, in November 1959, the question of a Hebrew High School for Durban had, in fact, come to receive serious consideration. At that stage the Hebrew Day School went up to Standard III and the senior pupils would therefore be ready for entrance into a Hebrew High School at the beginning of 1962.<sup>27</sup>

In March 1960, representatives of the Durban United Hebrew Schools and the Durban United Hebrew Congregation met with the Honorary Officers of the Council of Natal Jewry and the members of the Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission for the purpose of submitting a full report of the proposed plans for the high school. At this meeting a formal request was made to the C.N.J.

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<sup>26</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashalom Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63., *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 19., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 45., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 33., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 4, 1959, p.14.

<sup>27</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 41.

for permission to launch an immediate campaign to raise approximately £130,000 in order to acquire land and erect thereon a Jewish High School, and to further develop the existing Primary School.

Permission for the campaign had to be sought from the Council of Natal Jewry because the Durban United Hebrew Schools wished to approach the whole community, rather than just its own members, for the necessary funds, as it was felt that the proposed high school should be a communal and not a Congregational responsibility. It was intended that the high school should be conducted on broad Jewish national, traditional lines, in common with other Jewish day schools affiliated to the South African Board of Jewish Education, and it was to be open to all Jewish children irrespective of religious affiliation and also to Gentiles.<sup>28</sup>

Whilst the Durban United Hebrew Schools had long been an autonomous body and had derived considerable support from the whole community, via the Durban Jewish Community Chest, it was regarded very much as an extension of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, which owned all the school buildings and to which the schools were also heavily indebted for substantial financial support. The C.N.J. consequently did not regard the Durban United Hebrew Schools as a community

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<sup>28</sup> Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held on Thursday, 24th March, 1960, at 5.15 pm., at the Communal Offices, 72 Berea Road, Durban, pp.1-2.

responsibility, although it remained keenly interested in their progress, in view of the effect that they had on the community as a whole.<sup>29</sup> In extending their support and approval to the capital drive for the erection of a communal Jewish High School, the Honorary Officers of the Council of Natal Jewry therefore recommended that an independent body should be responsible for governing the affairs of the high school.<sup>30</sup> As a direct consequence of this recommendation the Natal Hebrew Schools' Association was established.<sup>31</sup> It was clearly understood that the proposed high school would be run in conjunction with the Primary School and would follow the same policy as the primary school which, like all other Jewish day schools, was inclined towards Orthodoxy. The Durban United Hebrew Congregation was, therefore, hardly troubled by the question of which body would administer the School,<sup>32</sup> and the close relationship between *Shul* and School continued.

The campaign for funds was launched on

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<sup>29</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th November, 1959, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>30</sup> Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held on Thursday, 24th March, 1960, at 5.15 pm., at the Communal Offices, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.

<sup>31</sup> From a personal interview with Mr Sam Ernst, May 1980.

<sup>32</sup> Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held on Thursday, 24th March, 1960, at 5.15 pm., at the Communal Offices, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.4.

March 29, 1960, by the eminent scholar and Rabbi Kopul Rosen, who had been the architect of the Jewish Day School in Great Britain.<sup>33</sup> A Building Fund Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr A. Stiller, canvassed the community for financial and moral support and entered into negotiations for the acquisition of suitable land for the proposed high school.<sup>34</sup>

At the annual general meeting of the Durban United Hebrew Schools, held in November 1960, it was regretfully recorded that insufficient funds had been raised and it was therefore impossible to have a high school building ready for the commencement of the 1962 school year. In arranging for buildings that were available on the Congregation's property to be adapted for school purposes, the meeting, believing that the necessary funds would be forthcoming, nevertheless decided that the school should be built. Although the high school was to be a communal school the close relationship between the Orthodox Synagogue and Hebrew education was recognised by the proposal that at least 75% of the School's Governors should be members of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation.<sup>35</sup> Not only did this decision recognise the community's indebtedness to the

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<sup>33</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, March 29, 1960, p.10.

<sup>34</sup>*Havhalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 66.

<sup>35</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, November 25, 1960, p.9.

Congregation for its contribution to Hebrew education, but it roughly corresponded to the proportion of pupils of the existing schools whose families were members of the Orthodox Congregation.<sup>36</sup>

The investigations of the Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission, the publication of its findings and the steps towards creating a Hebrew High School, all took place against the background of intense activity within all branches of the Durban United Hebrew Schools.

By 1959, the growing popularity of the Sharona and Ilana Nursery Schools had forced the authorities of the schools to adopt the policy of giving priority of admission to children of members of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, although applications from non-members continued to receive sympathetic consideration.<sup>37</sup> With the limited accommodation that the nursery schools had available, it was understandable that their first priority would be to accept children of members of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation whose parents contributed by their membership, towards the upkeep of the schools.<sup>38</sup> Whatever the justification of

<sup>36</sup> Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held on Thursday, 24th March, 1960, at 5.15 pm., at the Communal Offices, 72 Berea Road, Durban, pp.3-4.

<sup>37</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 53.

<sup>38</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th November, 1959, at 8 pm., pp.8-9.

such a policy was, it caused resentment amongst the ranks of the Reform Congregation,<sup>39</sup> although by this time a nursery school had been opened at Temple David,<sup>40</sup> and it made it evident that the time was fast approaching when enlargement of the nursery schools would have to be considered.

With 135 children on the roll of the two nursery schools those who, from 1960, joined the growing number of parents who sought admission for their children had to be content with a place on the school's waiting lists. Reports on the fine staff and the high reputation of the schools continued, as in past years, to be recorded by Mrs R. Osrin, **Head** of the Nursery School Department of the South African Board of Jewish Education.<sup>41</sup>

The Parent-Teacher Associations of the schools continued to serve as important adjuncts of the schools. Parents were regularly invited to be present at the schools when the children held their traditional celebration of the Jewish Festivals<sup>42</sup> and all other branches of school activity were followed with similar interest. The Parent-Teacher Associations engaged in affairs of a social and cultural nature as well as

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>40</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, November 29, 1956, p.12.

<sup>41</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 67.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 55.



considerable charitable work which benefited several institutions for underprivileged children which the schools had taken under their wing.<sup>43</sup>

The School authorities' preoccupation with the needs of the emergent day school did not distract them from the important role which the supplemental Hebrew school played in the general field of Hebrew education. Classes continued to be held in the central school and at the branches, as well as at Highbury School,<sup>44</sup> but with the growth of the Day School there was a slight falling off in numbers, owing to increased enrolment in Sharona Primary School.<sup>45</sup> As a result classes were terminated at Highbury during 1960, and from 1961, were also discontinued at Westville.<sup>46</sup> The comparatively small number of students who continued with their Hebrew studies after reaching *barmitzva* or *butsitzva* age were provided with a special curriculum, that included Hebrew, Jewish History and Judaism, and

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<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 67., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 58.

<sup>44</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, To be Held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, April 9th, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.9.

<sup>45</sup> *Hatsalon Fosh Hoshana* Annual, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 67., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 68.

<sup>46</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, To Be Presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, To Be Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.11.

efforts were constantly made to attract further students to such classes.<sup>47</sup>

In conjunction with the Durban United Hebrew Congregation the schools continued to prepare the *barmitsvah* and *batmitsvah* candidates for the tests that they had to undergo prior to the celebration. With each passing year it was noted with considerable satisfaction that the standard of these tests rose considerably.<sup>48</sup>

As the number of classes at Sharona Primary School continued to increase, annually so too the number of enrolments grew steadily from 123 pupils in 1959,<sup>49</sup> to 163 pupils in 1960<sup>50</sup> and 220 just a year later,<sup>51</sup> by which time the school had reached the full range of primary school classes. In 1959, the school received notification from the Natal Education Department that it had been granted the status of a Government aided school.<sup>52</sup> At the same time it had the good fortune to secure the services of Mr Isadore Kahanovitz, the Vice-Principal of the King David High School in

<sup>47</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 68.

<sup>48</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 55., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 67., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 68.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 55.

<sup>50</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 66.

<sup>51</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 68.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 55.

Johannesburg for the post of headmaster,<sup>53</sup> from the beginning of 1960.<sup>54</sup> The appointment of a headmaster for the Sharona Primary School not only relieved Mr Ernst of many of his onerous duties but, together with the conferment of Government aided status, added immeasurably to the popularity and prestige of the school.<sup>55</sup>

Considerable thought and attention was also given to the building programme of the school and in 1959, the creation of a much needed Assembly Hall, financed by the Durban United Hebrew Congregation at a cost of £1,000 began.<sup>56</sup> With the assistance of Ort-Oze a Manual Training Centre was later established at the School in 1961, and plans were formulated for the opening of a Domestic Science centre.<sup>57</sup> The unexpected increase in the schools' population necessitated the immediate acquisition of additional premises, and in a customary display of generosity towards the school, a building, acquired by the Congregation in Silverton Road opposite the school, was effectively turned into classrooms for

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>54</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.6] (February, 1960), 13.

<sup>55</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 66.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 55.,  
*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64.

<sup>57</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 17.

the junior classes.<sup>58</sup>

In a community where every development within the school was a matter of personal satisfaction to each individual Jew, so too a tragedy such as the passing of the senior Hebrew teacher, Mr Max Clapper, in April 1960, was felt with a sense of intimacy, as the entire community shared in his family's loss.<sup>59</sup>

One of the school's most outstanding features was the close relationship which it fostered between the parents and the teachers. The cultural, literary and social activities of the Parent-Teacher Association proved to be of incalculable value to the school and added to the prestige and popularity of the institution.<sup>60</sup> The introduction of a school sports day in 1961, afforded parents, as well as the many other friends and well wishes of the school, an opportunity to come together and to share in this exciting aspect of school activity.<sup>61</sup>

The rapid growth and development of the Sharona Primary School added a sense of urgency to the efforts of the Building Fund Committee to find a suitable location on which to establish a Jewish High School. In

<sup>58</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64 and 68.

<sup>59</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 34.

<sup>60</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 68.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

August 1960, after lengthy negotiations with the City Council, a seven acre site in Kenneth Gardens, fronting Fielden Drive, Hutchinson Road and Queen Mary Avenue, was finally secured.<sup>62</sup> The City Council was forced to reconsider its decision upon receipt of a numerously signed petition, by the residents of Glenmore and Carrington Heights, in which they demanded that the City Council rescind its decision to allow the school to be built and reaffirm an earlier understanding that the land should be zoned an open space for recreational purposes.<sup>63</sup>

After the matter had been referred back twice by the City Council for further investigation,<sup>64</sup> the Finance Committee reaffirmed its decision to allocate the site in Kenneth Gardens for the proposed Jewish High School.<sup>65</sup> In May 1961, by the narrow majority of 12 votes to 11, the Durban City Council agreed to allocate the land at Kenneth Gardens to the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, which had carried out all the necessary negotiations for the establishment of the new school.<sup>66</sup> After further negotiations the Durban United Hebrew Congregation informed the City Council's Finance

<sup>62</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, August 23, 1960, p.5.

<sup>63</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, October 3, 1960, p.23.

<sup>64</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, December 16, 1960, p.9., *The Natal Daily News*, March 17, 1961, p.3.

<sup>65</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 9, 1961, p.2.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, May 16, 1961, p.4.

Committee, in September 1961, that it had agreed to an alternative site for the proposed high school, in place of the site offered to it in the Kenneth Gardens area. The new site consisted of seven and a half acres of land, valued at R62,000, and was situated between Dan Pienaar and Francois Roads,<sup>67</sup> and it was on this land that the Hebrew High School, Carmel College, ultimately emerged.

By the end of 1961, the state of Jewish education in Durban was a cause for much pride and satisfaction, with a larger percentage of the Jewish child population receiving a Jewish education than ever before. The Durban United Hebrew Schools which had close organisational and ideological ties with the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, controlled two flourishing nursery schools, a primary school and afternoon classes and a stage had been reached in the development of the City's Jewish educational institutions when the establishment of a Jewish High School had become a practical project, involving the entire Jewish community.

The advances in Jewish education prompted more individual Jewish and communal organisations to proclaim their belief in the primacy of Jewish education and to support the Jewish Day School, which came to be increasingly recognised as the educational agency, which, more than any other, was able to transmit the Jewish

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<sup>67</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, September 18, 1961, p.4.

cultural heritage to the rising generation.

With the generally low quality of Jewish aspiration and Jewish living in Durban and the general communal indifference to, and neglect of, Jewish culture and Jewish religious observance, borne of Jewish ignorance and illiteracy, the Jewish Schools had to bear an extraordinary and unfair burden. Instead of complementing the knowledge and commitment acquired in the home, the Synagogue or the community, the schools were largely expected to single handedly arouse and imbue that knowledge and commitment. Although traditional rather than religious in character the school, nevertheless, played a not insignificant role in transmitting some feeling for Judaism to their youth, and were to some extent a bulwark against the forces of ignorance and assimilation.

## CHAPTER XLIV

THE DURBAN JEWISH CLUB : 1956 - 1961

The problems in respect of finance and membership with which the Club's Governing Bodies had to contend in this period, were to a large extent counterbalanced by the heightened sectional activity and considerable expansion of the Club's facilities, which took place simultaneously, and which were the outstanding features of the Club's history at this time.

When, in February 1956, the Club resumed its activities after the summer recess, plans for the programme of events to mark the Club's Silver Jubilee Year were already considerably advanced.<sup>1</sup> A special committee, under the chairmanship of Mr D. Solomon, consisting of members of both the Council and the Executive, had been set up to co-ordinate all the details and had arranged for all Sections to hold functions of a particularly high standard.<sup>2</sup>

Beginning with the traditional Soiree on

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<sup>1</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 10-11.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.5 (February, 1956), 28., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 10.



February 29, which was the first of the official Silver Jubilee functions,<sup>3</sup> each of the sectional committees in turn held activities to mark the Club's 25th anniversary. The Culture Section inaugurated its Silver Jubilee programme with addresses on Israel by Mr Justice Henochsberg and Dr B. Moshal in March 1956.<sup>4</sup> The Dramatic Sections' contribution were two major productions, *Piano*<sup>5</sup> and *A Question of Fact*,<sup>6</sup> which were staged in March and July respectively. The Chess,<sup>7</sup> Squash,<sup>8</sup> Bowls,<sup>9</sup> Snooker<sup>10</sup> and Tennis<sup>11</sup> Sections and the Circle Country Club,<sup>12</sup> each held tournaments during the course of the year and the Entertainment<sup>13</sup> and Yiddish Sections<sup>14</sup> also held suitable functions to commemorate the event.

The 25th anniversary of the Club's opening fell

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.6 (March, 1956), 25.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 16.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 17 and 28.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 9.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 31.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 35.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 29.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 35.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.3 (October, 1956), 31.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 31.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.10 (June, 1956), 33.

on May 4, and in order to highlight this notable milestone a special week was set aside as "Club Week." The first of the functions arranged for "Club Week" was the official opening, on April 29, of the David Hillman Park, Circle Country Club and Golf Course, which took place in the presence of a large number of members and their friends. Watched by a variety of prominent guests, including Mr Justice Henochsberg, Mr Acting Justice Friedman, Mr A. Hopewell M.P., the Mayors and Mayoresses of Pinetown and Queensburgh, the Chairmen of the Local Boards of Kloof and New Germany, the Magistrate of Pinetown, as well as prominent Jewish communal leaders, Mrs H. Hillman unveiled a plaque inscribed with the name of the Park and Country Club and declared the Park open. Mr Hayman Levy, the Country Club's Honorary President officially opened the Club and after Mr T. Jackson, President of the Natal Golf Union and Vice-President of the South African Golf Union, had officially opened the golf course, Mr H. Mymin, the captain of the Golf Section, formally hit the first drive.<sup>15</sup>

A highlight of the celebrations was a banquet held at the Jewish Club, under the distinguished patronage of the Administrator of Natal, Mr D.G. Shepstone, on May 1.<sup>16</sup> More than 300 people, including prominent Civic figures

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<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 11.

<sup>16</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 2, 1956, p.9.

and all past presidents and chairmen of the Club attended the banquet, at which special tribute was paid to the Club's founders and to Mr A. Miller, who had compiled a history of the Club, which was published that week to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations.<sup>17</sup>

"Club Week" terminated with Club Day on Sunday, May 6, when the different sporting sections and the Circle Country Club held all day competitions and tournaments. In the evening an informal dance was held during which members of the Council and the Executive lit 25 candles on a birthday cake.<sup>18</sup>

Further major functions arranged by the Silver Jubilee Committee were the "Bal Fantasia" Cabaret on July 14, the Silver Jubilee Variety Concert on October 21, and Members' Day on November 11, which brought the Jubilee celebrations to a close.<sup>19</sup>

In a fitting climax to its Silver Jubilee year the Club elected Mr Sol Moshal an Honorary President, a title which up until that time had been granted only twice before, to Mr H. Hillman and the late Mr P.C. Hollander. This honour was accorded Mr Moshal for untiring and valuable work for the Club and its predecessor the Jewish Circle.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> *Baskolon*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 8-9.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 21., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 10.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 10.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 7.

The interest and involvement which the Silver Jubilee celebrations aroused in the members of the Club was sustained by the Building Fund Drive, which had been approved at the Club's annual general meeting in 1955. As members took time off from the anniversary festivities to reflect on the Club's achievements and the central place which it occupied in their lives, and in that of the Jewish community as a whole, the desirability for its enlargement to cope with its growing needs came to be increasingly appreciated.<sup>21</sup>

A committee was appointed by the Council to conduct the Building Fund Drive. It consisted of Mr L.S. Ditz, Chairman; Messrs M. Woolfson and M. Solomon, Vice-Chairmen; Mr H. Polack, Hon. Treasurer; Messrs A. Miller and W. Stone, Publicity Officers and Mrs M. Bierman, Hon. Secretary.<sup>22</sup>

The provision of a hall to meet the needs of the Youth Section was emphasised as the most important aspect of the Scheme, the long term benefits to the entire community of providing a venue for the training of future leaders hardly needing to be stressed.<sup>23</sup> The need to satisfy the requirements of the youth served as the central theme of the address with which Mr L.S. Ditz in his capacity as Chairman of the Drive, launched the

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<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.6 (March, 1956), 2-3., *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 3-5.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 8.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 3-4.

appeal for funds at a meeting in September 1956.<sup>24</sup> After outlining the Club's immediate needs and highlighting the alternatives to developing the Club, Mr L.S. Ditz explained that his Committee was seeking to raise the sum of £75,000. Originally they had intended to raise 150 units of £500 each. On reconsideration, however, it was agreed that that target was too ambitious. It was decided, instead, to seek to raise 50 units of £500 each and 100 units of £300 each, payable over a period of 5 years. Certain donors, it was anticipated, would donate more than 1 unit and from the other members of the Club it was hoped to raise the balance of the target. As a further inducement contributors were reminded that whatever amount they gave to the fund was free from Donations Tax because the Club had been granted an exemption from such a tax by the Commission for Inland Revenue. Provision was furthermore made entitling donors to the Fund to convert either the whole, or part, of their contribution to Foundation Membership for themselves and the members of their families.<sup>25</sup>

The initial response to the Drive was most encouraging<sup>26</sup> and the youth, whose needs were felt to transcend all others and who were made the principal

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<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.3 (October, 1956), 8-9.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 8.

reason for the Drive, signed a petition supporting the appeal.<sup>27</sup>

The Building Fund Drive was conducted against a background of fluctuating Sectional activity which witnessed the demise of certain Sections and the emergence of new ones. The first of the Sections to discontinue functioning was the small, but at one time nevertheless extremely successful, Chess Section. Its disintegration, in 1956, was largely brought about by the departure from Durban of many of its most enthusiastic supporters.<sup>28</sup>

Mixed fortunes also characterised the functioning of the Club's other sections and in particular those devoted to cultural and social activities. The Culture Section, whose affairs gave the Club a unique character insofar as it distinguished it from ordinary sporting clubs, enjoyed only limited support from Club members. Its activities which were of a consistently high standard, were both varied and interesting and ranged from talks to symposia.<sup>29</sup> Yet, whilst seeking

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 31., *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 31., *Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 74., *Haskolom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 11.

<sup>29</sup> *Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 71., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 73., *Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 68., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 54.

to present cultural functions for the members of the Club, in such a manner that the largest number would find interest therein, the Section encountered certain difficulties which were not easily surmounted. In the first instance, a certain standard had, of necessity, to be maintained commensurate with the name of the Section. Furthermore a balance had to be struck between functions of a Jewish and a general nature.<sup>30</sup> As the policy of the Culture Section's Committee was to concentrate on functions of a Jewish nature, in the belief that there were many forums for cultural activities of a more general nature outside the Club,<sup>31</sup> it narrowed its appeal somewhat by adhering to this viewpoint.

The Culture Section collaborated wherever possible with the Jewish Education Council, which body, in conjunction with the Culture Section, annually presented "Peoples College" which, gauged by the excellent attendances, were of outstanding interest.<sup>32</sup> Another organisation with which the Section co-operated was the Durban Zionist Association, together with which it

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<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 68.

<sup>31</sup> *Hashalom Bosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 73.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 71., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 73., *Hashalom Bosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 68., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 54.

presented the Morrison Memorial Lecture.<sup>33</sup> Under their auspices the first Bible Quiz was held in Durban in October 1959, and invitations were extended to all communal organisations to participate in this affair.<sup>34</sup> Thereafter it became a popular annual event and one of the highlights of the Section's activities.<sup>35</sup>

Within the Culture Section were three sub-sections which by the very nature of their activities were limited in their popular appeal. The first of these was the Debating Section, which in 1956, functioned most effectively under the chairmanship of Mr S. Manion.<sup>36</sup> Although it went into decline during 1957,<sup>37</sup> debates nevertheless continued to be held periodically under the auspices of the Culture Section.<sup>38</sup> For a short time, too, during 1958, a small study group of Club members met monthly under the auspices of the Culture Section to discuss matters of Jewish interest and to hear papers

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<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1959), 68., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 54.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 68.

<sup>35</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 7., *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 7.

<sup>36</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 71.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 73.

<sup>38</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 54.



prepared by members of the group.<sup>39</sup>

The second sub-section was that devoted to Yiddish Culture. Chaired by Mr F. Rogoff throughout this period, this Section devoted itself to the propagation of all facets of Yiddish life in South Africa, by arranging lectures, debates, variety concerts and recitals.<sup>40</sup> Among this Section's most noteworthy functions, many of which were only made possible through the assistance of the Jewish Education Council,<sup>41</sup> were a concert by the Yiddish recitalist Hertz Grosbard in 1957;<sup>42</sup> a concert by the folk singer Sidor Belarsky,<sup>43</sup> and two lectures by Dr C.H. Shoskes of the Y.I.V.O. Institute<sup>44</sup> in 1958; a function in 1959 to mark the centenary of the birth of Sholem Aleichem;<sup>45</sup> a memorial lecture to mark the death, in 1960, of the Yiddish author David Pinski;<sup>46</sup> and a lecture by Dr M. Natas, the Cultural Officer of the Zionist Federation, on the book

<sup>39</sup> *Haskaloh*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 12.

<sup>40</sup> *Haskaloh Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 71.

<sup>41</sup> *Haskaloh Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60.

<sup>42</sup> *Haskaloh*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 37.

<sup>43</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 4, 1958, p.8.

<sup>44</sup> *Haskaloh*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 37 and 39.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 35.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 48.

*The Last of the Just*, by Andre Schwarz-Bart in 1961.<sup>47</sup>

The library, under the chairmanship of Dr O. Ballin, also fell within the scope of the Culture Section. Its committee concerned itself with purchasing new books to augment its collection of what was already widely regarded as the finest selection of Anglo-Judaica in the country.<sup>48</sup> A highlight of its activities was the extremely successful Book Week held in 1959, in conjunction with the Jewish Education Council,<sup>49</sup> and a Book Month that was organised during 1960.<sup>50</sup>

Although the library boasted an extensive collection of books on both Jewish and general interest, for too many members the Club Library remained just a room in the Club where functions were held or where it was known that books were housed.<sup>51</sup> The Committee, however, derived considerable satisfaction from the small but nevertheless gradually increasing number of members who

<sup>47</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 54.

<sup>48</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 71., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 73., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 55.

<sup>49</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 13.

<sup>50</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81.

<sup>51</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 7., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60.

used the library both for reference purposes and pleasure.<sup>52</sup>

For all its activities and its work in the cultural field for the benefit of Club members and the Jewish community, the Section regretted the lack of active participation in its affairs by the general body of the Club and by the community generally.<sup>53</sup>

Mixed fortunes also characterised the offerings of the Dramatic and Entertainment Sections both of which strove to provide varied and appealing entertainment to members and the general public.

The Dramatic Section, which maintained its tried and proven practice of annually presenting two full length plays, staged its fiftieth major production.

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<sup>52</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 11., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81., *Hashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 7.

<sup>53</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 33., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 60., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 81.

*A Question of Fact* in June 1956,<sup>54</sup> which seemed singularly appropriate in view of it being the Club's Silver Jubilee Year. It furthermore offered its members a succession of stimulating functions, including play readings, talks, brain-trusts, children's plays and musical dramas.<sup>55</sup>

The functions of the Dramatic Section were generally of a high standard and for the most part were warmly received by members and the theatre-going public of

<sup>54</sup> In 1956 they were *Picnic*, produced by Malcolm Freed (*Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 17 and 28.) and *A Question of Fact*, produced by Anne Freed (*Ibid.*, XXXIV No.10 (June, 1956), 9.). In 1957 they were *Charley's Aunt*, produced by Malcolm Woolfson (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 11.) and *Black Chiffon* produced by Anne Freed. (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 9-10.). In 1958 they were *The Tender Trap*, produced by Malcolm Woolfson (*Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 15 and 17) and *The Desperate Hours*, produced by Anne Freed. (*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.12] (August, 1958), 12-13.). In 1959 they were *The Telephone* and *The Medium*, two musical dramas, produced by Malcolm Woolfson (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 37.) and *Women of Twilight*, produced by Anne Freed (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 19 and 21.). In 1960 they were *On Monday Next*, produced by Robert Holness (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 27) and *Breath of Spring*, produced by Anne Freed. (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 4-5.). In 1961 they were *Inherit the Wind*, produced by Malcolm Woolfson (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (April, 1961), 11.) and *The Deep Blue Sea*, produced by Anne Freed (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 9-10.).

<sup>55</sup> See *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 73., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 73., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 62., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 70., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 82-83., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 58.

Durban. The Section was, nevertheless, not spared criticism especially insofar as many of its major presentations included actors who were not members of the Club.<sup>56</sup> Although this allegation was not entirely without foundation, the situation arose largely as a result of the reluctance of Club members to offer their services and in some instances due entirely to an outside actor's suitability for a particular role. Officially the Section's policy remained one of seeking to involve, wherever it was able, as many Club members as possible in its productions.<sup>57</sup>

Similar criticism in respect of selecting actors was directed against the Entertainment Section and was rebutted by the Section's Committee in like fashion.<sup>58</sup> The Section devoted much of its energies to the production

<sup>56</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 73., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 25., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (February, 1959), 23.

<sup>57</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 73., *Hasholom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 39., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 35., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 13., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 46.

<sup>58</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 43., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 74., *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 33., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 25., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.9] (January, 1959), *Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 43.

of musical presentations<sup>59</sup> as well as to the staging of regular quiz evenings, concerts, cabarets and dances, all of which enjoyed a mixed degree of success.<sup>60</sup>

Intimately linked with the Dramatic and Entertainment Sections, and in no small measure responsible for their success, was the Club Orchestra, which, from the time of the inception of the Club had been under the charge of Mr David Cohen.<sup>61</sup> It was common knowledge that Mr Cohen's contribution to the field of music and entertainment, both in the Club and the community, was so substantial that it could not be measured. This, therefore, made his death in 1957,<sup>62</sup> all the more painful, leaving as it did a serious void

<sup>59</sup>Including the Musical Revue *Passport to Pleasure* (*Hashalom*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 17.) and a blues concert *Accent on Rhythm* (*Ibid.*, XXXIV No.11 (July, 1956), 31.) in 1956, the musical *Nite and Day* in 1957, (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 18.) the musical revue *Let Yourself Go* in 1958, (*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.10] (June, 1958), 13.) the Gershwin show *Lady Be Good* (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 13.) and the musical revue *Talk of the Town* in 1959, *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 15.) *Say It With Music* in 1960, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 13-14.) and the musical *Shut Up and Sing* produced by David Horner in 1961. (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 4-5.).

<sup>60</sup>See *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 74., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 74., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 69., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 82., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 58.

<sup>61</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 15.

<sup>62</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.4] (December, 1957), 23.

in the effective functioning of these Sections.<sup>63</sup> In fitting tribute to its first Musical Director, the Durban Jewish Club instituted a Memorial Award to the late Mr Cohen in the Natal Eisteddfod, consisting of a gold medal plus £5 5/- cash.<sup>64</sup>

The cohesion which the late Mr Cohen had given to the Club Orchestra dissipated with his demise, unable to be sustained by his memory. It was in fact only in May 1959, with the Entertainment Section's presentation of *Lady Be Good*, produced by Joan Brickhill and Louis Burke, that the Club Orchestra was revived under the baton of Mr Cliff McDonald<sup>65</sup> and came once again to be a feature of the Club's productions.

Both the Dramatic and Entertainment Sections also found it increasingly difficult to obtain suitably trained stage crews. In 1960, they therefore jointly undertook to form a Stage Committee.<sup>66</sup> This Committee ensured the proper handling of the stage equipment and kept all aspects of stage management under its control and supervision, and assisted thereafter in all the major productions of the Club.<sup>67</sup>

The inauguration of a Bridge Section in 1959, was

<sup>63</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 15.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.12] (August, 1958), 13.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 13.

<sup>66</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 82.

<sup>67</sup> *Hashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 7.

very much in keeping with the Club's policy of trying to cater for the needs of all its members. Upon its inception the Section was intended to provide Thursday night social bridge and bi-monthly competitive duplicate bridge.<sup>68</sup> Dr G. Awerbuch and a very enthusiastic committee derived considerable satisfaction from the growing support which the Section received among Club members,<sup>69</sup> and from the Section's affiliation to the South African Bridge Union.<sup>70</sup>

The enthusiasm which had marked the creation of the Bridge Section rapidly diminished, however, to the point where by November 1959, a general lack of interest in the Section resulted in the cancellation of competitions during the month.<sup>71</sup> As it was believed that the Section's condition was largely due to the vastly different standards of members and a reluctance on the part of the more advanced players to play with the less experienced, it was arranged that two evenings a month were to be set aside for weak players, two evenings for more experienced players and two evenings per month for open competitive bridge.<sup>72</sup>

These steps failed, however, to revive sectional

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 43.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 39., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 39.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 3.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 50.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*



activity and for some months thereafter the Bridge Section was somewhat dormant. On March 29, 1960, another attempt was made by the Bridge Section to revive the interest of members of the **Section** in the form of an Intersectional Pairs Contest. In view of the success of the evening's entertainment it was felt that there was a sufficient interest in **the** game to continue holding regular evenings for competitive bridge. It was therefore arranged that at least two evenings a month would be available for competitive bridge and that on Club Day two sessions would be run.<sup>73</sup> The Club Day competitions, however, attracted far fewer contestants than had been anticipated.<sup>74</sup>

The Bridge Section, in fact, ceased to function effectively for some time thereafter, owing to a lack of support when regular evenings were held for rubber bridge. On those Club nights, however, when competitive bridge evenings were held they met with considerable success. This led to efforts to reactivate the Section and on August 8, 1961, a team-of-four competition was organised.<sup>75</sup> Due entirely to the efforts of its chairman, Dr G. Awerbuch,<sup>76</sup> the Section regained popularity once more and monthly bridge meetings and

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<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 49.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 44.

<sup>75</sup> *Bashalom Rosh Beshanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 68.

<sup>76</sup> *Bashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 8.

competitions became a feature of Club life once again.<sup>77</sup>

The ill fortune that dodged the Bridge, and certain of the other Sections, greatly troubled the Governing Bodies of the Club and this was probably true especially in respect of the Youth Section. This Section, in which the Club took such pride, for which it had such great aspirations and because of which it had pressed ahead with an extensive expansion programme, began its activities in this period on a poor note. Marred by insufficient support its first function for 1956, had to be cancelled,<sup>78</sup> and the continued apathy of its members led to an extraordinary general meeting of the Section to discuss its future direction.<sup>79</sup> Gradually, however, as the year progressed attendances at functions improved and individual members of the Section began to join in activities. Whilst lectures on Jewish culture never drew more than a handful of members,<sup>80</sup> and a Red Cross course in first aid was enjoyed by only a meagre dozen,<sup>81</sup> social activities under the Section's auspices, such as dances, quizzes and play readings attracted ever increasing

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<sup>77</sup> *Ibid.*, 43., *Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 11., *Ibid.*, [XL No.5] (January, 1962), 39.

<sup>78</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 30.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 33.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.9 (June, 1956), 37.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 37., *Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 73.

numbers.<sup>82</sup>

Unlike other Sections of the Club the Youth Section did not go into recess during the summer months but instead intensified its activities, so as to take full advantage of the absence of school and university duties.<sup>83</sup> The momentum set during 1956 was, thereby increased and grew steadily in the years thereafter. At the Club Soiree in February 1957, special mention was in fact made of the activity that was prevailing in the Youth Section and the hope was expressed that the older members of the Club would follow suit.<sup>84</sup>

Sunday night became firmly established at the Club as youth night and nothing, not even the unavailability of a suitable venue, was able to deter members from joining in the activities of the Section, which grew in size and popularity during this period.<sup>85</sup>

The regular activities of the Youth Section made its existence most notable with the result that the youth

<sup>82</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 37., *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.9 (June, 1956), 37. *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 31., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 73., *Hasholom*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 43., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 37., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 37 and 39.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.6 (January, 1957), 37.

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.8 (March, 1957), 15.

<sup>85</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 79., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 69., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 82., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 57-58.

came to play an increasingly important role in Club life and were invited to work with other Sections of the Club. In 1956, the Youth joined with the Dramatic Section to hold a round-table reading<sup>86</sup> and this set a precedent for further co-operation with the Dramatic Section on which the Youth Section was accorded representation.<sup>87</sup> On occasion the Youth Section also held joint activities with the Culture<sup>88</sup> and Entertainment<sup>89</sup> Sections, and one of the advantages of this arrangement was generally a considerable increase in attendance in consequence of the Youth Section's popularity.

The youth not only worked in close harmony with other Sections of the Club but were also directly responsible for the expansion of Sectional activity and the creation in 1959, of a Hockey Section.<sup>90</sup> Initially the Section fielded both men's and women's teams and its first Committee included Lesley Ackerman, Jill Gordon, Hermione Mallach, Lawrence Fisher, Stephen Berman and Gerald Blumenthal, with Dave Golding and Sam Abrahams

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<sup>86</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 13.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.5 (March, 1957), 32., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 35.

<sup>88</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 39., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 54.

<sup>89</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 43., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 39., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.5] (January, 1959), 33.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 1.

as Conveners.<sup>91</sup> In their formative days the Circle hockey teams scored notable victories in their matches<sup>92</sup> and the standard of players was such that no less than seven members of the Hockey Section were included in the Natal *Maccabi* hockey side that visited Johannesburg in July 1959.<sup>93</sup> At the conclusion of the official hockey season in 1959, the Section had a membership of approximately 35 and was able to field at least two teams,<sup>94</sup> an achievement of no mean importance for a Section which had only been in existence for a few months.

When the Hockey Section resumed its activities in March 1960, it was reorganised as a men's club with John Cohen as Chairman; Dave Goldberg, Vice-Chairman; Herbert Hendler, Captain; Sam Abrahams, Treasurer; and Gerald Blumenthal, Secretary.<sup>95</sup> The Section gained affiliation to the Durban and District Hockey Association and playing League Hockey in the Sixth Division ended its first season of League hockey fifth out of the eleven teams.<sup>96</sup>

Building on its success the Hockey Section entered

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, 43.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 47.

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 47.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 41.

<sup>96</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 51.

the following season augmented in size. Not only did 1961 see the Section fielding a second team but in the same season it also formed a colt's team for younger players.<sup>97</sup> The Section notched up considerable successes on the sports field<sup>98</sup> and this was especially commendable in the light of the disadvantages under which it had to labour, insofar as it had no grounds on which to practice and no coach under whom it could train.<sup>99</sup> Infused with the youthful enthusiasm of the Section out of which it had grown, the Hockey Section remained a vital and active element of Club life.

A further outgrowth of the Youth Section and an expression of another facet of sectional interest was the formation of a Photographic Sub-Section in May 1961, largely through the enthusiasm of Dennis Monk.<sup>100</sup> After initially confining itself solely to the youth, the Photographic Section branched out and, due to popular demand, from July 1961, began to function as a full section open to all Club members, from the most amateur to the most advanced.<sup>101</sup> Lectures on photography were

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<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1960), 47.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.8] (April, 1961), 41., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 47., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 47., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 47., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 40.

<sup>99</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 60.

<sup>100</sup> *Heshalom*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 48.

<sup>101</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 56.

held under the Section's auspices as well as photographic outings, workshops and classes, all of which attracted a growing number of photographic enthusiasts of all ages.<sup>102</sup>

Spurred on by the enthusiasm of its members the Photographic Section opened a darkroom-cum-studio on the Club's premises and found itself forced to postpone a course of lectures so as to enable it to cope with the unprecedented demand for seating.<sup>103</sup> Within only a few months of its inception the Photographic Section had arranged a mammoth competition which was held in December 1961,<sup>104</sup> and which, from the number and quality of the entries, augered well for the Section's future development.

The successes and achievements which characterised the workings of the Youth Section were a source of great pride and satisfaction to the Club authorities. This was particularly so in as much as most of what had been achieved by the youth had been attained principally through the efforts and enthusiasm of the youth themselves, notwithstanding circumstances which denied them a permanent venue.

In a community in which initially the only organised youth group was a specifically Zionist movement the Youth Section fulfilled a very vital role in offering

<sup>102</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 42.

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 41.

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*

young people between the ages of 16 and 25 years a forum for social activities.<sup>105</sup> That such a facility was sorely needed was reflected in the growth and popularity of the Youth Section, which, faithful to the intentions of its founders engendered a Club spirit and a sense of belonging and so stimulated communal responsibility among the younger generation.<sup>106</sup>

Very much at the hub of Club life were the different sporting sections which, notwithstanding the flaws and shortcomings that were evident upon close scrutiny of their individual affairs, nevertheless, collectively presented a glowing picture of Jewish participation in a variety of sporting activities. Such facilities not only afforded members a healthy way in which to spend their recreation time but fostered a close Club spirit which overflowed into the communal dimension.

All sport sections of the Club were affiliated to their respective district and provincial sporting associations and the Club took pride in the success that its members and teams achieved in the tournaments and competitions of these associations. In 1956, the Circle's senior squash racket team, consisting of Jack Kaplan, Brian Shagam, Gunter Lazarus, Louis Druck, Louis Strous and Alan Zulman became the Durban squash

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<sup>105</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 41.

<sup>106</sup> *Hasholom Hash Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 79.



champions.<sup>107</sup> Jack Kaplan was, furthermore, selected for the inter-provincial team that was chosen to play against the Transvaal,<sup>108</sup> and was made captain of the Natal team.<sup>109</sup> That same year Mrs Zelda Goldberg, the captain of the Ladies' Golf Section of the Circle Country Club, was selected to represent Natal in the inter-provincial ladies golf championships,<sup>110</sup> and Mrs V. Friede won the Durban Women's Bowling Championships.<sup>111</sup>

During the following year it was Mrs V. Friede who brought honour to her Section, and the Club, by her selection as a member of the Union team to play against the touring British bowlers,<sup>112</sup> and as the skip of the South African team that competed at the *Masabi* Games.<sup>113</sup>

Mrs Friede was, furthermore, included in the Women's Circle Bowling Team, that represented Durban in the District Trophy Competition at the South African tournament,<sup>114</sup> and that won the Lever Trophy, for

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 79.

<sup>108</sup> *Esakholom*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 41.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 13.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.6 (March, 1956), 33.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.11 (July, 1956), 35.

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 35.

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 37.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 33.

emerging as runners-up in the competition.<sup>115</sup> The limelight in which the Women's Bowling Section basked was, however, shared by the Squash Section, whose men's team won the Durban 1st League;<sup>116</sup> the Tennis Section, which won the Sachs Trophy;<sup>117</sup> the Boys' Under 18 Junior tennis team, which won its 1st Division League;<sup>118</sup> and Rita Easton, of the Women's Golf Section of the Circle Country Club, who was chosen to captain the South African Ladies Golf Union Women's Team which toured the British Isles in 1959.<sup>119</sup>

In 1959, the Club took pride in the inclusion of Mrs Z. Goldberg in the Natal team for the South African Women's Golf Championships,<sup>120</sup> the promotion of the Circle Country Club's Men's Golf Team to the A. League,<sup>121</sup> and the Golf team's triumph in winning the Benningfield Trophy, the premier team trophy in Natal.<sup>122</sup> Much satisfaction was also derived from the Circle Bowling Teams success that same year in winning *The Natal Mercury* Cup

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<sup>115</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 64.

<sup>116</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 15.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*, 13.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 47.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*, 39.

<sup>120</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 74.

<sup>121</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 45.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 51.

in the finals of the Durban and District Mid-Week Bowling Championships.<sup>123</sup>

The Tennis Section was the focus of the Club's unrivalled attention and honour during 1960, in consequence of the success of its Boys Under 18 2nd Tennis Team which won the 2nd Team League,<sup>124</sup> and its senior team's emergence as the winner of the Sachs Trophy.<sup>125</sup>

During 1961, the Tennis Section again found itself in the forefront of the Club's attention in consequence of the selection of two of its junior members, Jackie Saul and Robert Shotland, for the Natal team that participated in the National Junior Championships.<sup>126</sup> Its glory had, however, to be shared with the Country Club's Golf Section from amongst whose ranks Mrs Zaida Goldberg was chosen to represent Natal in the Provincial Golf Team<sup>127</sup> and Lionel Phillips was chosen to represent Durban in the Inter-Town Match against Pietermaritzburg.<sup>128</sup> The major achievement of a sport section in that year was, however, the success of Joe and Ada Sklarchik in the Durban and District Bowling

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 49.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 37.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 46.

<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.8] (April, 1961), 37.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 33.

Association's Mixed Pairs Competition, for which they won the Oppenheimer Cup Floating Trophy.<sup>129</sup>

From amongst the ranks of the Club's sportsmen and women emerged not only some players of distinction, but also some fine sporting administrators, who made a singular contribution to the running of their respective sporting bodies.

In 1956, Alan Magid, an extremely active member of the Circle Tennis Club, was elected to the Executive of the Durban Lawn Tennis Association.<sup>130</sup> He subsequently rose to the office of vice-chairman of the Association<sup>131</sup> and in 1961, he was made President of the Association's Executive.<sup>132</sup>

Simultaneously Mrs V. Friede, who in 1956, was the President of the Circle Women's Bowling Club,<sup>133</sup> moved through the leadership ranks of the Natal Women's Bowling Association. In 1956, she was made a member of the Association's Executive<sup>134</sup> and almost immediately thereafter was elected Vice-Chairman,<sup>135</sup> in which capacity she served until her elevation to the Presidency

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.5] (January, 1962), 35.

<sup>130</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 30.

<sup>131</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 49.

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 8.

<sup>133</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.3 (December, 1955), 33.

<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.6 (March, 1956), 29.

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 37.

in 1957.<sup>136</sup> 1959, Saw Mrs Friede elected to the Executive of the Southern Natal Women's Bowling Association (formerly known as Durban and Districts),<sup>137</sup> and that same year she served on the entertainment section of the Women's South African Bowling Tournament.<sup>138</sup> In 1960, Mrs Friede was made a Vice-President of the Southern Natal Women's Bowling Association<sup>139</sup> and a year later she became its President.<sup>140</sup>

Amongst the male members of the Circle Bowling Club Mr A. Foreman, the Club's Honorary Vice-President was elected, in 1956, for a second term as President of the Natal Bowling Association,<sup>141</sup> Mr I. Smith, a past Honorary Vice-President of the Circle Bowling Club, in 1957, was elected the Vice-President of the Durban and District Bowling Association<sup>142</sup> and a year later he was made the Association's President.<sup>143</sup> After an interval of some years in 1961, a Club member, in the person of Mr M. Levitan, was again elected as Vice-President of

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<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 37.

<sup>137</sup> *Sashalom*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 45.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 47.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.12] (August, 1960), 37 and 39.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 37.

<sup>141</sup> *Sashalom*, XXXIV No.6 (March, 1956), 29.

<sup>142</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.7 (February, 1957), 27.

the Durban and District Bowling Association.<sup>144</sup> At the same time Mr Levitan served as a Vice-President of the Tournament Committee which was set up to organise the men's South African Tournament in April 1962.<sup>145</sup>

When, in 1956, the Natal Squash Rackets Association invited the Jewish Club's Squash Section to serve on the Association, without voting rights, Mr Jack Kaplan was appointed to serve in this capacity,<sup>146</sup> and in the following year he was elected to the Association's Executive Committee.<sup>147</sup> Jack Kaplan's Club colleague and sports rival, Brian Shagam, was co-opted some years later to the same Executive Committee.<sup>148</sup>

From amongst the Club's golfing fraternity only one person, namely Mrs Zelda Goldberg, attained administrative office outside of the Country Club. In 1961, she was elected to the Executive of the Natal Ladies' Golf Association.<sup>149</sup> The Club's Billiards Section also had only one representative, namely Mr Dave Faiga, on the Durban and Districts Amateur Snooker Association. In Mr Faiga's case, however, he was made

<sup>144</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.6] (February, 1961), 47.

<sup>145</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 55.

<sup>146</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 35.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.7 (February, 1957), 35.

<sup>148</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 49.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 33.

the Chairman of the Association in 1956,<sup>150</sup> and in 1960, he enjoyed the unprecedented honour of being elected for his fifth successive term in this capacity.<sup>151</sup>

Notwithstanding the difficulties that arose in connection with the functioning of certain of the sectional committees, Club life, when measured by the extent of sectional activity, gave little cause for disappointment. Every section that was functioning was producing something of benefit for its members and was, by the very nature of its continued existence, satisfying the needs of at least, a proportion of the Club's members.

Consternation was, however, felt by the leaders of the Club over the decline in the number of adult members who made use of the Club's facilities. This was particularly marked when compared to the enthusiasm and support which the fledgling Youth Section gave to the Club.<sup>152</sup>

Although this state of affairs was very possibly in part the result of changing social pressures, it was also partly attributed to the failure of the ladies to pay a sufficient part in the running of the Club.<sup>153</sup> Believing that it was impossible for the men to give their

<sup>150</sup> *Basholom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 32.

<sup>151</sup> *Basholom*, [XXXVIII No.6] (February, 1960), 31.

<sup>152</sup> *Basholom*, XXXV No.8 (March, 1957), 1.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 2.

necessary support to a body in which their womenfolk were not interested, the Club took steps in 1957, to form a Ladies' Committee. On November 20, a tea party was organised in the Club tea room and the members of the Executive, who were the only males present, were delighted at the enthusiastic response of the 81 ladies who attended. After considerable discussion the women agreed that the 15 to 20 women elected at the Club's annual general meeting on December 3, would form an Executive Committee, which would be augmented by representatives from the Women's Section.<sup>154</sup> At the annual general meeting, however, it was unanimously agreed that there should be no election for the ladies' Executive Committee and that all 31 ladies who stood for election for the 12 member Executive Committee should become members of a Ladies' Council, which would elect its own Executive and Sub-Committees.<sup>155</sup>

On January 22, 1958, the initial meeting of the Women's Section was held and the following executive members were elected:- Mrs Bella Schmahmann, Chairman; Mesdames Zelda Goldberg and Doreen Averbuch, Vice-Chairman; Mrs Sophie Beecham, Secretary. At the same time the following Sub-Committees were also formed:- Housing and Catering; Mrs Sonia Solomon, Convener; Mrs Desiree Gevisser, Co-Convener. Functions:

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<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 7.

<sup>155</sup> *Ibid.*, 5.



Mrs Zelda Goldberg, Convener; Mrs Judy Druck, Co-Convener. Hospitality: Mrs Doreen Awerbuch, Convener. Membership: Mrs Celia Levy, Convener. Entertainment: Mrs Maureen Jacobs, Convener; Mrs Barbara Nurock, Co-Convener. Due to the inadvisability of voluntary workers coping with paid staff the Catering Section had, however, to be abandoned.<sup>156</sup>

The creation of a Women's Section certainly revived the flagging interest of the women in Club affairs and augered well for the revitalisation of the Club as a whole. The Club Soiree in February 1958, which was the first function to receive the attention of the Women's Committee, was judged to have been the best ever.<sup>157</sup> Thereafter the Women's Committee annually attended to all the necessary arrangements in connection with the presentation of this event.<sup>158</sup> Other activities arranged by the Women's Functions Sub-Committee included a Silver Horsehoe Dance in 1958,<sup>159</sup> annual card afternoons<sup>160</sup> and a series of finger forum luncheons.

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<sup>156</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.6] (February, 1958), 21., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 63.

<sup>157</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.7 (March, 1958), 17.

<sup>158</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 45., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 47., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.7] (March, 1961), 50.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 23.

<sup>160</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 63., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 71.

which were addressed by a number of distinguished speakers.<sup>161</sup>

On April 12, 1958, the Women's Entertainment Sub-Section opened a snack bar *The Sideaway*, which became a regular feature of the Club every Saturday evening.<sup>162</sup> This innovation proved to be enormously attractive to the members of the Club who patronised it in large numbers and as a result a separate committee, consisting of members of the Club's Executive and the Women's Section, was formed to take charge of its running.<sup>163</sup> The women followed the growing popularity of *The Sideaway* with considerable pride, retaining a strong sense of affection for this most successful outgrowth of their Section.<sup>164</sup>

The major contribution of the Women's Section did not lie, however, in the additional amenities which it initiated for the benefit of members, but rather in the invaluable assistance which it extended to existing

<sup>161</sup>Including Professor P. Tobias, of the Witwatersrand University (*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 39.) Mr Maurice Webb, a well known Durban journalist (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 45.) Mr Cecil Williams, the noted South African producer (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 39.) and Miss Dorothy Heeger, a well known Durban social worker. *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 71.

<sup>162</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 23.

<sup>163</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 13., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 7, *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 7.

<sup>164</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 47.

sections and committees behind the scenes.

The Women's Section ensured that at every Club function at least one hostess was in attendance to assist new members and to encourage involvement and participation of all present. At the same time members of the Women's Section assisted in the background arrangements at nearly all functions and supervised floral displays, table settings, menus and other features that helped ensure a programmes success. The House Sub-Committee not only made recommendations concerning possible improvements to the Club's premises, but at the same time attended to the cleanliness of the Club, the repainting of certain rooms and the making of new curtains. All the time the women also worked in close conjunction with the Club's Membership Committee in seeking to augment the ranks of the Club's members.<sup>165</sup>

The work which the ladies conducted behind the scenes came, in fact, to be the major area of activity for the members of the Women's Section. Although not always glamorous or highly publicised it was this work which contributed so greatly to the success of Club activities. The important part which the Women's Section played in reviving the old Club spirit and in restoring the Club to a more central place in the lives

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<sup>165</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 63., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 71., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 83., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 56.

of its members was quickly recognised by the Club's authorities. At its annual general meeting in 1958, the Constitution was consequently amended to allow for the co-option of a representative of the Women's Section<sup>166</sup> and Mrs Sophie Beecham, the Section's Chairman, was chosen to fill the new position on the Executive.<sup>167</sup>

The circumstances that had given rise to the formation of the Women's Section did not entirely disappear, notwithstanding the efforts of the ladies, nor was a dramatic increase in membership recorded following its creation. Nevertheless, insofar as the Club had looked to the ladies to help revive the flagging interest of the members of the Club, and to heighten participation in its activities, the efforts of the Women's Section can be seen to have met with considerable success.

The greater involvement of members not only infused Club life with new enthusiasm, but at the same time attracted further people into the ranks of its membership. As in the case of the women this had the effect of bringing into the mainstream of Club affairs, once again, some of those who, over the years, had formerly been more active in Club activities.

The value of retaining the services of experienced members was something that had been widely recognised by

<sup>166</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 19.

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.5] (January, 1959), 3.

the Club for some time, and the Council had, in fact, devoted itself to realising this objective, particularly in respect of past members of the Executive and Council. The general practice of the Club was for past Chairmen to be elected to the Council, which was comprised of such past Chairmen, past Presidents and other members who had rendered outstanding service to the Club and the community. With the passing of the years, and the necessary limitation of the size of the Council, it became increasingly more difficult to accommodate those qualified for Council service. In order to be able to continue to draw on the services of those deemed qualified, it was decided to create a Board of Past Presidents.<sup>168</sup> An amendment to the Constitution to this effect was put before Foundation Members at the Club's annual general meeting in 1960, and was adopted. The Board of Past Presidents did not, however, constitute a separate committee but was part of the Council of the Club. In amending the Constitution a provision was also inserted in terms of which members of the Board, sitting and voting with the Council, could never outvote the elected Council members.<sup>169</sup> Despite this limitation the Club was once again afforded the benefit and experience of many suitable people who had formerly been unable to make a positive contribution to the Club's

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<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 10-11.

<sup>169</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.5] (January, 1960), 3.

advancement, and this augured well for the Club's future development.

Of great concern, as well, to the Governing Bodies of the Club was the perennial problem of inadequate finance. Greatly perturbed by the losses incurred in running and maintaining the Club, and sharing with the Executive the belief that the financial position of the Club should be improved,<sup>170</sup> the Council, in 1957, appointed a sub-committee, headed by Mr A. Miller, which was charged with investigating and reporting on the Club's finances and administration. Having regard to the urgency of the problem the Council requested the sub-committee to submit an interim report on ways and means of supplementing the Club's income and, if possible, of curtailing its expenditure.<sup>171</sup> Arising out of reports made by the Investigating Committee, the Council and Executive had numerous discussions with a view to ensuring the efficient working of the Club.<sup>172</sup>

Financial difficulties also faced the Circle Country Club and Golf Club, on whose Management Committee the Jewish Club was represented. Notwithstanding the enthusiasm and dedication of the members, and the extensive sporting and social activity of the Country

<sup>170</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 11.

<sup>171</sup> *Ibid.*, 4-5.

<sup>172</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 11.

Club, efforts to meet its annual deficit were hampered by an inability to enrol sufficient new members.<sup>173</sup> In an attempt to rectify this state of affairs the Country Club inaugurated a membership drive in November 1957,<sup>174</sup> which met, however, with only limited success. At the same time the golfers took steps to put their Club's financial affairs in order. On April 30, 1958, an extraordinary meeting was held at which a report on the critical state of the Club's finances was submitted. Members of the Country Club responded with an outpouring of contributions which helped the Club to continue functioning effectively.<sup>175</sup>

Further difficulties, however, arose for the Country Club in June 1961, when the Council of the Club was faced with the renewal of the R24,000 bond which existed on the David Hillman Park. Through the good offices of Mr A.J. Cohen a loan of R13,000 on first mortgage was arranged for the Jewish Club, and the balance required to repay the bond was received from the afforestation scheme at the Park.<sup>176</sup> Even as steps were being taken to effect payment of the bond it was clearly evident to the authorities of the Jewish Club that, whilst the

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<sup>173</sup> *Hahalom*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 2-3.,  
*Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 5.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 45., *Ibid.*,  
[XXXVI No.6] (February, 1958), 36.

<sup>175</sup> *Hahalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 41.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 5.

Country Club was excelling in its sporting activities, it lacked numerical support which made it increasingly difficult for it to carry the financial burden involved.<sup>177</sup> At a special general meeting held on December 5, 1961, it was therefore decided to undertake a drive for funds and for new members<sup>178</sup> and it was hoped that in this way the future of the Circle Country Club and the Circle Golf Club would be assured.

The Jewish Club's financial straits, which derived, to some extent, from escalating costs and maintenance of existing facilities, were in large measure ascribed, like those of the Country Club, to the inadequate size of its membership.<sup>179</sup> The fact that there were many members of the Jewish community who were not members of the Club caused considerable concern amongst the members of the Council and much resentment amongst members. Whilst conducting an intensive campaign to enrol new members,<sup>180</sup> Club authorities made no secret of their disapproval of efforts by non-members to use the Club's facilities as the guests of members.<sup>181</sup> Recognised as a unique institution which shed lustre on the entire community, the Club was nevertheless unsuccessful in its

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<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>178</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 9.

<sup>179</sup> *The Zionist Record*, December 14, 1956, p.16.

<sup>180</sup> *Hazhalom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 5.

<sup>181</sup> *Hazhalom*, [XXXVII No.1] (November, 1958), 11.



efforts to draw large numbers of non-members into its ranks. Consequently a growing body of opinion came to urge that non-members, who constituted almost two-thirds of the Jewish community, should be restricted from using the facilities of the Club through a stringent application of the visitors rule and the levelling of distinctive charges of non-members.<sup>182</sup> Increasingly members came to resent having to bear the burden of providing and running what was nothing less than the focus of communal activity. Many also came to believe that if the Club were to be made more exclusive, and it was made more difficult for non-members to attend and to enjoy Club functions, then there would be a decided increase in membership.<sup>183</sup>

During 1959, steps in fact were taken to tighten up restrictions against the use of the Club by non-members. In the first instance membership cards were issued to members to assist them in exercising their membership rights.<sup>184</sup> At the same time it was proposed that a board be erected in the foyer, prominently displaying the names of the entire Club membership. It was hoped to thereby embarrass those people whose names did not appear on it and to coerce them into enrolling as members. A further innovation which also received serious

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<sup>182</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 3.

<sup>183</sup>*Ibid.*, 23.

<sup>184</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 3-4.

consideration was the employment of a bell hop or commissionaire. It was envisaged that such a person would be exclusively at the service of members and would be in a position to implement the Executive's decisions with regard to members' privileges.<sup>185</sup>

Even as the Executive worked to enrol new members and to ensure that only members enjoyed the facilities and privileges offered by the Club, calls continued to be made that the use of the Club should be confined to Club members only.<sup>186</sup> Whilst the Club's Executive did endeavour, as far as possible, to confine Club activities to members only, this did not result in a significant rise in membership.<sup>187</sup>

Recognising that such a state of affairs was, in part, attributable to the fact that the rules limiting Club Facilities to members had not been strictly enforced, renewed calls were made in 1961, for the adoption of measures that would bring home the privilege and advantages of membership.<sup>188</sup> In early 1962, concrete steps were taken in this direction with the appointment of a commissionaire who was positioned at the main door of the Club in order to check that only members and their

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 3-4.

<sup>186</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.5] (April, 1960), 3., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 16, 1960, p.22.

<sup>187</sup> *Hahalom*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 6-7.

<sup>188</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 2-3.

*bona fide* guests entered the Club's premises.<sup>189</sup>

In view of the Club's ailing finances and its problems in respect of membership the question arises as to why the Club should have proceeded with its contemplated programme of expansion. Whilst its efforts to attract new members had met with only limited success and no dramatic increases were reflected in the size of its membership roll,<sup>190</sup> the Club, for all its disapproval of the attitude of non-members and their extensive use of its premises, recognised that, just as its founders had envisaged, it was both a home to its members and a centre for the Jewish community. Although the Club was entitled to expect, that insofar as it provided a centre of assembly for the Jews of Durban, that it was justified in demanding the financial and moral support of the entire Jewish community,<sup>191</sup> it recognised too that there was little incentive for a member of the community, who had no interest in Club activities to become a member of the Club.<sup>192</sup>

<sup>189</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.6] (February, 1962), 3.

<sup>190</sup> In 1956 the Club had 1681 members (*Hashalom*, XXV No.4 (November, 1956), 11.). In 1957 this figure rose to 1695 (*Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 7.). In 1958 there were 1,759 members (*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 12.). In 1959 the membership stood at 1,773, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 13.), in 1960 at 1,771, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 6.) and in 1961 at 1,813 members. (*Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 6.).

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 3.).

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*

Serving as it did as the meeting place of outside Jewish organisations and bodies who held their activities within its premises, the Club authorities realised that their restrictions on non-members could only be of limited effect insofar as membership of the Club was no criteria for attending the activities arranged at the Club by these outside organisations.<sup>193</sup> Consequently non-members were able to effectively circumvent the issue of membership of the Club and were, at the same time, still able to make extensive use of its premises and facilities. The question of offering corporate membership to these outside Jewish organisations, which would have involved financial obligations on the one hand and privileges regarding the use of Club premises on the other, had been advanced when the Club was instituted, and repeated several times thereafter. By this period, however, such a procedure had been rendered impossible by the liquor laws.<sup>194</sup> The Club, nevertheless, constantly emphasised to these organisations their obligation to assist it in every possible way and to encourage its members to take out membership of the Club,<sup>195</sup> but to little avail.

Although, theoretically, the Club could have barred outside organisations from its premises, such a step would not only have been contrary to the spirit of the

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<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.5] (January, 1961), 2-3., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 3-4.

<sup>194</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 19.

<sup>195</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 3-4.

Club's constitution and the purpose of those connected with its establishment, but would have been a retrogressive step, insofar as it did little to guarantee the Club's continuance. Even in this period, when the Club no longer served as the catalyst for communal organisation and activity, its members, nevertheless, clung to the wider conception and purpose which had motivated its founders to work for the Club's creation. To have denied the use of the Club's facilities to outside organisations would, therefore, have been out of character with prevailing thinking and realities.

The Jewish Club's place at the centre of communal life was reflected, for example, in the choice of its library as the obvious home for a collection of religious artefacts which had been recovered from the Nazis and distributed in part to the Jewish communities of South Africa through the Board of Deputies.<sup>196</sup>

In their personal capacities several of its Council members held office in almost every other important Jewish communal institution in the City, many of which owed a considerable debt of gratitude to the Club for their founding and effectiveness.<sup>197</sup>

An expression of the Club's sense of communal

<sup>196</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 10, 1956, p.6.

<sup>197</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 9., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 5., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 11., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 11-12., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 5., *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 5.

responsibility lay in its maintenance of a *kosher* catering plant. Although it ran at a considerable expense to the Club the plant was nevertheless justified, insofar as it facilitated the holding of functions which conformed to the religious dietary laws of Judaism.<sup>198</sup>

Further evidence of this communal mindedness was to be found in the school and university bursaries which the Club awarded through its Bursary Sub-Committee, together with the Michael Duchon and Sol Jacobson bursaries which it had been empowered to administer.<sup>199</sup>

The Club's monthly newsmagazine *Hashalom* also continued to serve the whole community, carrying not only reports of sectional activity but reports on other organisations, articles and news of general interest to Natal Jewry as well. In 1958, at the suggestion of Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the name of the journal was changed to *Hashalom*, in keeping with the Israeli pronunciation that had been adopted in most Synagogues and Hebrew Schools in South Africa.<sup>200</sup>

The long established custom of holding luncheons for the Mayor and other notable figures was also continued in this period, serving as a valuable communal

<sup>198</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVIII No.3 (November, 1959), 11.

<sup>199</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 13., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 9., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 13., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 15., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 8., *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 8.

<sup>200</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 3.

public relation exercise. The world famous musician Larry Adler,<sup>201</sup> the retiring Administrator of Natal the Hon. Mr D.G. Shepstone<sup>202</sup> and his successor the Hon. Mr A.E. Trollip<sup>203</sup> were amongst those so honoured in this manner by the Club.

The breadth of the Club's communal concern was revealed in 1960, in its involvement on a committee that was formed in conjunction with other communal bodies, to assist Jewish refugees who were fleeing from the strife-torn Belgian Congo.<sup>204</sup>

At the same time the Club continued to reflect the strong Zionist sentiments of its members and the community. This was demonstrated in its inscription of the Israel Defence Force in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund, in an expression of its admiration for the army's achievements in the historic Sinai Campaign.<sup>205</sup> Through its Women's Section the Club also took the initiative, in 1960, in organising hospitality for visiting Israeli seamen, to whom, at the same time, it extended the use of all its facilities.<sup>206</sup>

<sup>201</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 13.

<sup>202</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 30, 1958, p.4.

<sup>203</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 13.

<sup>204</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Communal Offices on Tuesday, 13th September, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.

<sup>205</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 16.

<sup>206</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 2-3., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 9.

Clearly unwilling to surrender its important place in the life of Durban Jewry, nor wishing to cease its communal endeavours, the Club accepted that it was unique in respect of its history and development and the role that it played in the general life of the community. It therefore unhappily accepted the realities of its situation. In seeking to promote a feeling of pride in its members, and a desire on the part of those who were not members to apply for membership, the Club embarked on its building scheme. Whilst acknowledging that such a step had immediate benefit for its members, insofar as it would provide much needed facilities and was at the same time a development which would be of benefit to future generations, the Club also held out the hope that its added facilities would encourage and attract a larger membership.<sup>207</sup>

The Building Fund Drive, which had been launched in 1956, to facilitate the Club's enlargement was almost completed by May 1957.<sup>208</sup> At its conclusion an amount of £54,750 had been pledged. Although this figure was considerably less than the target of £75,000, in view of the fact that the Drive had had to be curtailed because of the early start of a campaign for funds for Israel, it had been considered most satisfactory, as sufficient money had been raised to make the proposed additions

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<sup>207</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 2.

<sup>208</sup> *Basholew*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 3.



possible.<sup>209</sup> In view of the fact that the bulk of the funds collected were payable over a period of five years there was a necessary delay to allow for the accumulation of sufficient money before tenders were sought. The Club in the meantime, appointed a Building Committee, under the chairmanship of its President, Mr C. Sternberg, to consider details of the building project. At the same time the various sections of the Club were asked to submit details of their requirements, so that in making its plans the Building Committee could seek to satisfy the needs of each section.<sup>210</sup>

During 1958, the Building Committee held numerous meetings with representatives of the different sections of the Club, as well as with experts in the catering field in order to endeavour to obtain an overall picture of the total Club requirements. The data that was submitted was in turn discussed with the Club's architects, Messrs Tomkin, Fridjohn & Oppenheim. It soon became increasingly apparent that the funds at the disposal of the Building Committee were not adequate to allow it to satisfy all the requests submitted by the various sections of the Club. It therefore, became essential to consider a list of priorities, having regard to the benefits that these would confer on the larger number of Club members. After much thought and

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<sup>209</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1959), 4.

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 3., *Ibid.*, XXXVI (November, 1957), 4.

and careful consideration the Club decided on the following priorities within which framework it sought to incorporate as many amenities as possible:

- a) Accommodation for the youth, b) new kitchens
- c) an additional hall, d) additional bar facilities.

Once the cost of these items had been arrived at the Committee resolved that the balance of the funds available, if any, would be devoted to providing other amenities.

This building programme was of little consolation to the sporting sections and the other sections which were not directly affected by the proposed plans. Those who were critical of the Building Committee's proposals had to constantly be reminded that in addition to the costs of the new building, the Building Fund would also have to meet the costs of furnishing and equipment and that no matter which plans were formulated or adopted the availability of funds would remain the deciding factor.<sup>211</sup>

After devoting much time to considering the proposed extentions to the Club building the Council was able to report, in 1959, that finality had at last been reached. The original Building Committee under the chairmanship of Mr C. Sternberg had been dissolved and a small Working Committee appointed in its stead. This Committee comprised Mr C. Sternberg, Chairman;

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<sup>211</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.2] (October, 1958), 27.,  
*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 10.

Messrs L. Levey and L. Lewis.

At that point in time approximately £27,000 of the £54,750 pledged to the Building Fund had been collected. It was therefore clear that a substantial bond would have to be raised to meet the cost of the new buildings and their furnishings and that the interest charge would be a heavy burden on Club finances. The Committee decided, however, to go to tender as soon as possible.

The ambitious plans that had originally been contemplated were curtailed to bring them in line with the realities of the Club's financial situation. Nevertheless, the proposed extentions were in no way insignificant. The final plans provided for a permanent home for the Youth Section in the upper portion of a double storey building that was to be sited behind the gymnasium. The ground floor was to provide a large sports pavilion for the use of the Bowls Section and was also to be available for general Club use during the evenings.

A new wing was also planned which was to extend from the main building, west on to the parking ground which was bordered by Brickhill and Old Fort Roads. It was to provide a lecture hall to seat approximately 400 and a private members' lounge, both of which were to be air conditioned. This new wing was designed to relieve the heavy demand for the use of the main hall, the foyer and tea room areas, especially when receptions and other activities were being held simultaneously. An important

aspect of its design was that it was planned with separate access, so that even if the old part of the Club was being used the members lounge would be accessible from a separate entrance.

New kitchens, a spacious bar and new staff offices were also planned, and it was proposed that the existing stage in the main hall be modernised.<sup>212</sup> The alterations to the stage and the plan to air condition the entire building were subsequently discarded in the face of the costs involved in such alterations.<sup>213</sup>

Tenders for the extensions and additions to the Club's premises were accepted by the Building Committee during 1960, and work commenced at the beginning of October of that year.

It was estimated that the cost of affecting these improvements would be approximately £71,000, to which had to be added £10,000 for furnishings and equipment and a further £5,000 for urgently needed renovations to the existing premises. With total expenditure estimated at £86,000, after deducting the £56,000 pledged to the Building Fund plus the £10,000 in accumulated reserves, which the Club had in hand, it was apparent that there would be a shortfall of approximately £20,000.

In order to help the Club overcome this shortfall and, at the same time, to avoid the necessity of obtaining

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<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 10.,  
*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.6] (January, 1961), 6-7.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.6] (February, 1961), 7.

a bank overdraft or the mortgaging of any Club property a small group of prominent communal figures agreed to lend the Club, free of interest for a period of two years, the sum set out against their names:- Mr P. Frame, £10,000; Mr A.J. Cohen £1,000; Mr H. Sulman £2,000; Mr A. Beare £1,000; Mr S. Moshal £1,000; Mr C. Sternberg £1,000; Mr M. Woolfson £1,000; Mr M. Wolpert £1,000.

The Council of the Club, in accepting this loan, stressed to its members the obligation imposed to make repayment at the stipulated time. At the same time it bemoaned the attitude of certain members who had still not contributed to the Building Fund<sup>214</sup> and sought to enrol further Foundation Members to help repay this loan.<sup>215</sup>

With the commencement of building operations members naturally had to bear with considerable inconvenience. The Club Executive sought, however, to keep such inconvenience to a minimum and special arrangements were made to ensure that there would be no interference with the Club's catering facilities.<sup>216</sup> Sectional activity was, nevertheless, adversely affected by the rebuilding programme and for many sections such as the Dramatic, Entertainment and Squash Sections this was

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<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 4-5.

<sup>215</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 16, 1960, p.22.

<sup>216</sup> *Haskalah*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 9.

a greatly unsettled period.<sup>217</sup> The slump in activity within these Sections was ascribed in large measure to the fact that the building operations had occupied the time and attention of most of the Club's and the particular section's, most ardent workers.<sup>218</sup> Even if such thinking was an over simplification of the problems facing the sections there was, nevertheless, a widely shared belief that the renovations and additions to the Club would draw greater numbers into its ranks and would stimulate an intensification of sectional activities.

As construction of the Club's extensions proceeded, the Governing Bodies unanimously agreed that Mr Sol Moshal, the Honorary President of the Club, should be invited to unveil the foundation stone that was to be placed on the facade of the new hall. It was most fitting that Mr Moshal, whose association with the Club dated back to 1919, when he was elected the President of the Circle, the Club's predecessor, should have been so honoured.<sup>219</sup>

The ceremony took place in conjunction with the Soiree, the opening function of the Club, on February 28, 1961. The main hall was filled to capacity for the occasion and amongst the distinguished guests present were the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress,

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<sup>217</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 58-60.

<sup>218</sup> *Ibid.*, 58.

<sup>219</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.6] (February, 1961), 8-9.

Councillor J. Forsdick and Mrs B. Krohn. The highlight of the evening was the symbolic stone laying ceremony, in which Mr Moshal switched on a spotlight to illuminate the foundation stone that was laid in the partly built extensions.<sup>220</sup>

As the new amenities of the Club were completed and came into use they proved a delight to members and the guests whom they entertained. The new air conditioned hall, sumptuous members' lounge, bar, restaurant and youth hall all met with extremely favourable comment. The official opening of the new bowls pavilion was held to coincide with the Circle Bowling Club's Silver Jubilee, and took place on November 26, 1961, before a large and representative gathering.<sup>221</sup>

For all the difficulties posed by problems of finance and inconsistent support of sectional activities, the expansion of its facilities ushered in a new era in the Club's history. Now more than ever before the Club was in a position to meet all the needs of its members, as well as the outside organisations which looked on it as the communal centre of Durban Jewry. Although disturbed by the inadequate support given to the Building Fund, the insufficient enrolment of the community on its membership roll, and the inconsistent attendances at

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<sup>220</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.7] (March, 1961), 4, 5, 7, 9.

<sup>221</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 14.

Club functions, the Governing Bodies, nevertheless, felt confident that once the finishing touches had been made to the extentions that there would be an upsurge of interest in all aspects and sections of the Club.<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>222</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 2-3.



## CHAPTER XLV

A PERIOD OF FARREACHING DEVELOPMENTS : 1956 - 1961

Whether on the national level, where political developments abounded, or at the municipal or civic level, where more localised affairs predominated, Durban Jewry, by virtue of its place within the wider community, was both affected and involved in all that occurred around it.

Within a City whose total population had by 1960, reached 681,309,<sup>1</sup> the Jewish community numbering 5,323 souls<sup>2</sup> made up only a small proportion of the City's 194,781 White residents, and an even smaller percentage of the City's total inhabitants.<sup>3</sup> Notwithstanding its small size, the Jewish community nevertheless made a contribution to the City which was in no way commensurate with its numbers.

Individuals within the community excelled and

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<sup>1</sup> *Republic of South Africa, Bureau of Statistics. Population Census 8th September, 1960, 11 No.5 Report on the Metropolitan Area of Durban, (Government Printer, Pretoria), p.1.*

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p.24.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p.1.

attained prominence in a number of varied fields and thereby added lustre to Durban Jewry's name. In 1956, Mrs Bella Schmahmann had the distinction of being elected the first woman Prime Minister of the Durban Parliament,<sup>4</sup> an honour which was accorded her once again in 1960.<sup>5</sup> Mr J.J. Friedman Q.C. was privileged to be appointed, no less than three times in this period, to serve as an Acting Judge of the Supreme Court of Natal,<sup>6</sup> and Mr C.R. Fridjhon was elected President of the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects in 1957.<sup>7</sup> On the sports field the Natal cricket team selected to meet Border, in February 1958, included the fast bowler Charles Cohen,<sup>8</sup> and in 1960 and 1961, Dennis Gamsy was included in the Natal cricket team that played Rhodesia<sup>9</sup> and the touring New Zealanders<sup>10</sup> respectively.

Members of the Jewish community also made a significant contribution to the economic life of Durban and a disproportionately large number of Jewish business houses were featured amongst the other leading

<sup>4</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 21.

<sup>5</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 14, 1960, p.9.

<sup>6</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 23., *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 31., *The Natal Mercury*, August 4, 1959, p.9.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, June 7, 1967, p.11.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, February 18, 1958, p.2.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, January 1, 1960, p.13.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, November 10, 1961, p.21., November 11, 1961, p.19., November 14, 1961, p.17.

companies, which were included in a book, commissioned by the City Council, in honour of Durban's Silver Jubilee of City Status in 1960. These businesses represented a host of diverse avenues of economic endeavour, all of which served to enhance the commercial reputation of the City. They also testified to the ingenuity and hard work of their founders, many of whom had started out after immigrating to the Union with little money and only a smattering of English, but with keen and untiring determination to succeed.

Among the firms recorded was *The Irish Linen, Spinning & Weaving Co.* which grew out of a small linen importing firm, founded by Mr Samuel Peimer in 1927, to become a large company spread across the Union, South West Africa and Rhodesia. It not only continued to import merchandise from Northern Ireland but at its factory in Pinetown it specialised in the manufacture of linen and manchester.<sup>11</sup>

One of the oldest and largest Wholesale Houses in Natal was *I. Rosenbach & Co.*, which was formed in 1899, by Mr I. Rosenbach, and retained thereafter as a growing family concern by his descendants, who dealt in the wholesaling of tobacco, fancy goods, groceries and allied lines of confectionery and domestic hardware.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> *Durban From Its Beginnings To Its Silver Jubilee of City Status.*, ed., Felix Stark (Johannesburg, 1960), pp.91-92.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p.144.

Another long established business of wholesale merchants was that of *A. Stiller & Co. (Pty) Ltd.* Formed in 1914, by 1960, it had expanded in both the scope of its business and in the number of its branch offices, which were spread throughout Natal, East Griqualand and Zululand.<sup>13</sup> A further organisation of wholesale merchants whose business activities spread in a network throughout the whole of Natal, was the wholesale tobacco and confectionery business of *Silver, Garbus & Co. (Pty) Ltd.*, which was established in 1932. Its managing director, Mr H. Silver, had come to South Africa as a young boy from Poland and whilst watching over his steadily expanding business interests came to play a prominent part in Jewish communal life.<sup>14</sup>

The company known as *Moshal, Gevisser Ltd.*, grew out of a partnership, formed in 1910, between Messrs J. Moshal, M. Gevisser and I. Gevisser to become an important public company with Mr Sol Moshal, the distinguished Jewish communal leader, as its chairman and managing director. The activities of the group were threefold and included the wholesale distribution of general merchandise throughout Natal, the Transvaal and Orange Free State; the manufacture of tea, coffee and clothing; and the administration of the affairs of *Acme Timber Industries Ltd.*, which had been established

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.94-95.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p.168.

by the Company and had grown into one of the largest sawmill organisations in the Union. It also administered *W.K. Boustred Ltd.*, an organisation specialising in builders' hardware and sanitary ware, in which it had a 40% interest.<sup>15</sup>

One of the largest iron and steel processors in the Union was the firm of *K. Nathan (Pty) Ltd.*, which was formed by Messrs K. Nathan and P. Nathan in 1937. It opened up for business as scrap metal merchants, and expanded its activities with the dispatching of the steel and cast iron from demolished up-country railway stations in Natal and East Griqualand direct to the steel mills and foundries, the importation of metal products and the creation of a ship breaking division.<sup>16</sup> Equally important in the metal industry, and substantial exporters of non-ferrous metals throughout South Africa, Europe and the Far East were the *Non-Ferrous Metal Works (Pty) Ltd.*, which was established in 1948, by a German refugee Mr Eugen Lazarus. The rapid development of the firm, followed by the opening of premises around South Africa and Southern Rhodesia, made it one of the leading producers of non-ferrous ignot metals in the Union.<sup>17</sup>

A company which had contributed, in the literal sense of the word, to the building up of Durban was the

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<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, pp.100-101.

<sup>16</sup>*Ibid.*, pp.320-322.

<sup>17</sup>*Ibid.*, p.120.

*Standard Building & Contracting Company (Pty) Ltd.*  
 Founded by Mr Nicolai Meyerowitz in 1928, its initial activities were confined to the erection of small cottages. From this the Company expanded into the development of new suburbs, the construction of blocks of flats, offices and Corporation housing schemes. The Company also tendered successfully for many of the major building projects in the City, including Parklands Nursing Home and the extensions to the St. Aidan's Indian Hospital, the King Edward VIII Hospital and the Addington Hospital.<sup>18</sup>

Another firm that was intimately bound up with the growth of Durban, was *J.H. Isaacs, Geshen & Co. (Pty) Ltd.* Established in 1902, by Mr J.H. Isaacs, it was continued after his death by his son, Major E.B. Isaacs and when, in 1933, he entered into partnership with Mr I. Geshen, the firm was renamed *J.H. Isaacs, Geshen & Co.* As land auctioneers, estate and financial agents the Company's activity embraced every aspect of real estate. It was also the chief agent of *Employers Liability Insurance Corporation*, and principal representative for Natal and Zululand of the *Swedish Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd.*<sup>19</sup>

The *Seare Group* of companies, which controlled a group of business enterprises ranging from furniture and home appliance stores to clothing and all household requirements, with branches throughout Durban and

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<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.198-200.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.252-253.

Pietermaritzburg, began trading as a furniture making concern in 1918. Founded by Messrs J. and H. Beare, the firm continued as wholesale manufacturers to the trade until Mr Aaron Beare, who eventually assumed the chairmanship of the Group, joined the Company. Under his direction, the firm discontinued its manufacturing activities and came, with enormous success, to concentrate on the retail side of the business.<sup>20</sup>

From 1931, when Mr Hymie Zulman, a Russian immigrant, acquired the assets of the *Durban Confectionery Works (Pty) Ltd.* the company proceeded to expand and to develop into what was one of the largest chocolate and sweet factories in the Union. Its sweets and chocolates, marketed under the name *Beacon*, grew rapidly in popularity, and a further indication of the progress achieved by the firm was the increase in its exports abroad.<sup>21</sup>

*The Old Dutch Butchery & Cold Storage (Pty) Ltd.* grew out of a small butchery shop established by Mr Jack Perling, to become one of the most modern and hygienic meat manufacturing concerns in Africa and a recognised landmark in Old Dutch Road. Under the direction of Mr Perling's sons, the company began the manufacture of meat products under the brand name of *Orchid*, and these came to be sold throughout Natal. In

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<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, p.207.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.210-211.

time the company came to deal in all branches of the meat industry and became the largest privately owned company of its kind in Natal.<sup>22</sup>

A significant contributor to the local clothing industry was *Cambridge Shirt Manufacturers (Pty) Ltd.*, which was financed from the time of its inception, in 1930, by South African capital. It grew from a one man concern, called the *Monarch Clothing and Shirt Manufacturers (Pty) Ltd.* by its founder, Mr A.J. Cohen, and it had started out by making inexpensive clothing and khaki shirts. Later it concentrated on higher grade clothing which was marketed under the trade name of *Cambridge*. The booming post-war demand for all forms of clothing, particularly shirts, led to the formation of a subsidiary called *Cambridge Shirt and Clothing Manufacturers (Pty) Ltd.* which was solely concerned with the manufacture and distribution of *Cambridge* shirts. A further reorganisation took place early in 1960, when the Company's business and assets were sold, with the Directors of *Bok Clothing Manufacturers (Pty) Ltd.* participating in the negotiations. A new company subsequently emerged under the title of *Cambridge Shirt Manufacturers (Pty) Ltd.* with Messrs A. Dubin, D.M. Solomon, A.H. Zulman and B.H. Bloom comprising the Board of Directors.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>*Ibid.*, pp.219-220.

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, pp.249-251.



A name closely connected with the retailing of clothing in Durban was that of *Woolfson Bros.*, whose founder Mendel (Mannie) Woolfson had come to the Union from Russia and had established himself as a merchant tailor and outfitter. From a small single store the firm developed into one of the major men's clothing shops in the City, with branches throughout Natal.<sup>24</sup>

*The National Bag Manufacturing Company*, in Durban, one of the country's leading manufacturers of jute and cotton bags and plastic coated and paper lined hessian bags, was another Jewish owned firm which made a valuable contribution to industry in Natal and Durban in particular. A subsidiary of the *Union Bag Company* in Johannesburg the Durban company was opened in 1939, and controlled by Mr Alec Weis, who was also the managing director of the entire Company.<sup>25</sup>

Pioneers in skin wool production in South Africa was the business of *Messrs Lewis Josephson*. Its founder Mr Josephson was from Lithuania, and on opening his firm he concentrated on selling and curing hides and skins. His pioneering efforts in skin wool production made it a major industry in South Africa. Together with its associated company *Durban Hide & Skin Curers (Pty) Ltd.*, *Messrs Lewis Josephson* came to be acknowledged specialists

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<sup>24</sup>*Ibid.*, p.256.

<sup>25</sup>*Ibid.*, p.221.

in hides, skins, wool and mohair.<sup>26</sup>

Among the very first companies to manufacture cotton blankets in South Africa and one of the earliest mills to commence operations in the textile industry in the Union was the *Natal Cotton and Woollen Mills Ltd.* which opened in 1930, and ultimately came to be controlled by Mr Victor Daitz. The extent of the company was reflected in the fact that *Natal Cotton* had its own sales organisation with an office in Johannesburg, and agents throughout the country covering the whole of South Africa, South West Africa and the Rhodesias.<sup>27</sup>

The leading Jewish industrialist of Durban, and an acknowledged leader in the textile industry, was Mr Philip Frame, who as a young textile engineer visited South Africa after World War I, and recognising the possibilities for industrial development, decided to settle in the Union. In time the *Frame Group of Industrial Organisations* which he established came to be inseparably linked with the birth and growth of secondary industry in South Africa. The multifarious activities of the *Frame Group of Industrial Organisations* ranged from the weaving of blankets, rugs, shawls, undersheets and bedspreads, the manufacture of canvass shoes the making of vests and trunks, to companies specialising in the spinning of rayon and cotton yarn for warps in the

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p.328.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, p.307.

blanket industry, the processing wool, mohair and karakul and flocks of all types made in cotton, wool, rayon and mixtures thereof.

The most important interest in the *Frame Group* was the *Consolidated Textile Mills Ltd.* This undertaking, which was a holding company, represented the largest manufacturing organisations in the Union. From its head offices, at Jacobs, Natal, the Company operated mills and factories around South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. The second most important interest of the *Frame Group of Industrial Organisations* was the *Consolidated Lancashire Cotton Corporation Ltd.* at Ladysmith, Natal, which was the largest spinning mill in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Frame organisation also owned the *Consolidated Woolwashing and Processing Mills Ltd.* in Port Elizabeth; administered the *Natal Canvas Rubber Manufacturers Ltd.* in Durban; had incorporated the *Natal Underwear Manufacturers Ltd.* into its *Natal Knitting Mills Ltd.*, and controlled the *Pinetown Woolwashery Ltd.*

In order to market the Group's products, sale offices were established in Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and around the Union, and in London the Group had its own office and buying organisation under the name of *S.A. Industrial Suppliers Ltd.*<sup>28</sup>

Mr Frame's enormous talents as an industrialist were drawn upon by the Government of the Union. He was

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<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.336-337.

not only invited to serve on the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council<sup>29</sup> but was also included in a delegation which visited the United States of America on a Government sponsored trade mission.<sup>30</sup>

Although this survey of some of the leading Jewish businesses in the City is neither detailed nor comprehensive, it nevertheless reveals the scope of Jewish business interests, and reflects something of the Jewish contribution to Durban and South Africa's economic life.

Economic activities did not, however, entirely cloud the sense of civic responsibility of the Jewish residents of the City, as was borne out by the willingness of members of the Jewish community to offer themselves as candidates during the municipal elections.

When ratepayers went to the polls in October 1956, they voted for the first time under a new system, designed to maintain greater policy continuity in the Chamber. Each of the 15 Wards was, in terms of the new arrangement, to be represented by two Councillors, the one who gained the most votes being elected for four years, and his runner up for two years.<sup>31</sup>

Three Jewish candidates made themselves available for election under the revised procedure. In Ward IV

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<sup>29</sup> *Hushalom*, XXXV No.12 (August, 1960), 29.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIX No.5 (January, 1961), 37.

<sup>31</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, March 18, 1955, p.11.,  
September 13, 1956, p.9.

(Bluff) Councillor M. Spanier Marson offered himself for re-election against fellow Councillor S. Smith and two candidates nominated by the Bluff Ratepayers and Burgesses' Association.<sup>32</sup> Mr Dave Panovka, a popular estate agent, hotelier and well known sportsman, stood for election in Ward V (Woodlands-Montclair),<sup>33</sup> and Mr Frank Levy, a highly respected Durban solicitor, came forward as a candidate for Ward IX (Berea).<sup>34</sup> On election day Mr Spanier Marson was removed from office and Mr Levy failed to gain election in Ward IX.<sup>35</sup> By his victory in Ward V Mr Panovka thereby became not only a City Councillor for the Woodlands-Montclair area, but also the sole Jewish member of the Council,<sup>36</sup> where he served on the Works, Parks and Amenities, and Native Administration Committees.<sup>37</sup>

Further attempts by members of the Jewish community to gain election to the Council met with success two years later when Mr Aaron Chait won a four-cornered contest in Ward I (Ocean Beach) and Mr Mervyn Gild secured a seat in Ward XIII (Morningside).<sup>38</sup> Their co-religionist

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, June 13, 1956, p.2.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, June 9, 1956, p.3.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, April 25, 1956, p.9.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, October 4, 1956, p.1.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, October 10, 1956, p.2.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, October 2, 1958, p.1.

Mr Michael Klisser, who was unsuccessful in his bid for public office in the Durban North by-election of 1959, made Civic history nonetheless by the crushing defeat that he suffered at the hands of his opponent, Mrs D. Olufsen, who gained 2,215 votes to his meagre 13.<sup>39</sup>

The Municipal election of 1958, not only brought about a three-fold increase in the number of Jewish City Councillors but also secured for the City the services of two eminently suitable and highly respected townsmen.

Councillor Aaron Chait was an engineer and company director who, before going into private enterprise, was employed for about nine years by the City Engineer's Department. He was therefore able to bring to Municipal problems a practical knowledge which was of inestimable value to the City. In the communal sphere he had served for some years on the Council of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, and had always associated himself with Jewish communal and cultural activity.<sup>40</sup>

Australian born Councillor Mervyn Gild was a successful industrialist, much respected by the business community, and was well known for his work within the Jewish community and, in particular, in respect of the Reform Congregation.<sup>41</sup> Mr Gild's drive and ability were quickly recognised by his fellow Councillors, and soon

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<sup>39</sup>*Ibid.*, April 23, 1959, p.1.

<sup>40</sup>*Hasha'om*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 21.

<sup>41</sup>*Ibid.*

after his election he achieved the singular honour of being made the Chairman of the Municipal Trading Undertakings Committee, in his first year of Municipal service.<sup>42</sup> Whilst Chairman of the Trading Undertakings Committee, Mr Gild refused to accept a fee of 350 guineas a year as a representative member of the Durban Transport Management Board, arguing that he sat on the Council to give his services to the City and that he would never accept money for his duties.<sup>43</sup> So great was his sense of commitment to the ratepayers of his Ward that in 1959, Mr Gild, in fact, sold most of his interest in his clothing factories so as to have more time to concentrate on his Council work.<sup>44</sup>

Councillor Gild was widely known for his philanthropy, an outstanding expression of his generosity being the contribution of a new ward at the ToCH T.B. Settlement,<sup>45</sup> and for his involvement in many organisations, including the Chamber of Industries, Rotary, the Durban Wings Club, the Point Yacht Club and the Masonic Lodge of Israel.<sup>46</sup>

Held in high esteem by a vast cross section of the City's residents, Councillor Gild's passing, in an

<sup>42</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, October 9, 1958, p.6.

<sup>43</sup>*Ibid.*, December 2, 1958, p.4.

<sup>44</sup>*Ibid.*, May 20, 1960, p.2.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*, April 9, 1956, p.7.

<sup>46</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, June 3, 1960, p.5.

aircraft accident, at the age of 51, was therefore all the more tragic. Whilst piloting his single engined aeroplane from George to Cape Town, Mr Gild was reported missing, on April 28, 1960,<sup>47</sup> and, despite an intensive search,<sup>48</sup> his wrecked plane was only found in the Outeniqua Mountains, near George, some three weeks later.<sup>49</sup> The grief felt by his colleagues on the City Council on his passing, and the tributes paid him by the Mayor, at a special meeting of the City Council prior to the funeral,<sup>50</sup> echoed the sentiments of his many friends and admirers. The funeral, which was preceded by a service at the Temple David, was one of the largest ever seen in Durban.<sup>51</sup> It bore fitting testimony to a man who had made a significant contribution to the Jewish and general life of the City in which he had made his home.

The vacancy on the Council, caused by the untimely death of Mr Gild, was filled by Mr Sol Harris, a 44 year old Durban businessman who was the managing director of

<sup>47</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 29, 1960, p.1.

<sup>48</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, April 29, 1960, p.1., *The Natal Mercury*, April 30, 1960, p.1., May 2, 1960, p.1., May 11, 1960, p.1.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, May 20, 1960, p.1.

<sup>50</sup> Minutes of the City Council of the City of Durban. Minutes of Proceedings of a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Durban, held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, on Thursday, 24th May, 1960, at 11.15 am., pp.512-513.

<sup>51</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, June 3, 1960, p.5.



a well known firm of building contractors. Mr Harris had been a friend of Mr Gild and had acted as his chief electioneering agent in the 1958 municipal elections.<sup>52</sup> Elected unopposed as Mr Gild's successor,<sup>53</sup> Councillor Harris came, in time, to enjoy a similar measure of respect and popularity to that enjoyed by his predecessor.

In October 1960, Mr Dave Panovka was returned to the City Council for a further term of office,<sup>54</sup> and the number of Jews serving on the City Council thus remained at three. Councillor A. Chait chaired the Council's Planning and Development Control Committee and sat on the Beach and Housing Committees; Councillor Harris was vice-chairman of the Works Committee and served as well as on the Planning and Development Control and the Housing Committees; and Councillor Panovka was vice-chairman of the Special Committee for Native Housing and a member of the Works and Trading Undertakings Committee.<sup>55</sup>

In the course of their duties the City's three Jewish Councillors were privileged to be amongst the participants in a full ceremonial meeting of the Durban City Council that was held on August 1, 1960, to mark

<sup>52</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, June 2, 1960, p.3.

<sup>53</sup>*Ibid.*, June 28, 1960, p.15.

<sup>54</sup>*Ibid.*, November 10, 1960, p.1.

<sup>55</sup>*Ibid.*, November 15, 1960, p.7.

Durban's Silver Jubilee of City Status.<sup>56</sup> Among the distinguished guests invited to be present at this historic ceremony was Mr A. Levine, the Chairman of the Zionist Council for Natal.<sup>57</sup>

Notwithstanding the importance of Municipal affairs the focus of interest in South Africa during this period remained principally fixed on the activities of the central Government, whose policies continued to evoke growing support and intensified opposition. The Jewish community of Durban, as an integral part of the population, could not help but be involved in national affairs, whether directly or indirectly. Those Jews who involved themselves in political movements, of whatever nature, did so, however, in their individual capacities, for it was the official stand of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies that no collective viewpoint existed for the Jewish community as a whole. Whilst the Board of Deputies was often harshly criticised for this stand, it was "a policy which was perceived to be a function of the Jewish collective interests."<sup>58</sup> Although it was clearly impossible to talk about a general attitude amongst South African Jewry there were many Jews who felt that there was a specifically Jewish

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<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, August 21, 1960, p.3.

<sup>57</sup> Minutes of the 58th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, Held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th August, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>58</sup> Gideon Shimoni, *Jews and Zionism: The South African Experience (1910-1967)*, (Cape Town, 1980), p.276

attitude, and in some cases their views and actions were determined by precisely this belief. Those who chose to remain politically inactive, by virtue of the fact that they lived in the country and were subject to its laws, came willingly or otherwise, to be caught up, nevertheless, in the political turbulence of the times.<sup>59</sup>

The opening of Parliament in 1956, coincided with nationwide demonstrations by the women of the Black Sash, who protested against the induction of the Senate, which was constituted in terms of the *Senate Act of 1955*, and which assured the Government of a two thirds majority in both Houses.<sup>60</sup> To demonstrate their opposition still further, members of the Black Sash around the Union arranged to travel in convoy to Cape Town in order to hold a vigil during the first joint sitting of the South African Parliament and the new Senate.<sup>61</sup> Among those from Durban who joined the convoy was Mrs Eileen Goldberg, the Press Officer of the Durban branch.<sup>62</sup> Together with hundreds of her colleagues she stood in silent protest outside the Parliament Building as a Bill was introduced to abolish the Entrenched Clauses protecting the Coloured vote, and to curb the powers of the Courts to adjudicate on the legality of certain Parliamentary

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<sup>59</sup> See Gideon Shimoni, Chapter 9, "Community With a Conscience," pp.272-304.

<sup>60</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 14, 1956, pp.1-2.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, January 31, 1956, p.3.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*

procedure.<sup>63</sup> After the Bill passed its third reading and became law,<sup>64</sup> the United Party once again turned to the Appeal Court to invalidate the Government's efforts to disenfranchise the Coloureds.<sup>65</sup> The enlarged Appeal Court, however, upheld the legality of the *Senate Act of 1955* and the *South Africa Act Amendment Act of 1958*<sup>66</sup> and thereby ended the five year struggle concerning the separate representation of the Coloureds.

For those who had striven to protect the Entrenched Clauses of the Constitution the shame and shock caused by the *Senate Act* persisted, amplified by the amount and effect of legislation concerning non-Europeans, and particularly Africans, which were brought before the House of Assembly during 1956. Within a matter of months five measures came before the House. Apart from the *South Africa Act Amendment Bill* which removed the Coloured people of the Cape from the Common Roll and deprived the courts of testing the validity of the Acts of Parliament,<sup>67</sup> the Assembly passed the *Group Areas Act Amendment Bill* which deprived the Africans living in Lady Selborne and Claremont near Pretoria of all freehold

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<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*, February 14, 1956, p.1.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*, February 28, 1956, p.1.

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, March 3, 1956, p.9., April 24, 1956, p.1., October 15, 1956, p.9.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, November 10, 1956, p.1.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, May 12, 1956, p.9.

rights and permitted their removal from the areas;<sup>68</sup> The *Industrial Conciliation Bill* excluded all African workers from its provisions, provided for job reservation and prohibited Coloureds from serving on the executive of mixed trade unions;<sup>69</sup> The *Native Prohibition of Intermarriage Bill* debarred the Courts from issuing an order staying the banishment of an African pending an inquiry;<sup>70</sup> The *Native Urban Areas Amendment Bill* gave local authorities power to banish an African without his having the right of appeal to the Courts<sup>71</sup> and the *Native Administration Amendment Bill* permitted the Minister of Native Affairs to serve a removal order on an African without giving him prior notice of his intention.<sup>72</sup>

For those within the Government's ranks the legislation was regarded as necessary to implement its policies and was justified accordingly. Determined to persevere unhampered with its ideological objectives the Government clamped down on its more vigorous opponents. In December 1956, the Government ordered the arrest of

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<sup>68</sup> *Union of South Africa, Debates of the House of Assembly, Fourth Session, Eleventh Parliament 13th January to 14th June, 1956, XCI (Cape Town), 18th April, 1956, cls.3811-3825.*

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, 1st May, 1956, cls.4658-4659.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, 16th April, 1956, cls.3619, (Bill withdrawn).

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, XCII (Cape Town), 14th June 1956, cls.7874-7884.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, 21st May 1956, cls.5766-5791.

over 150 people of all races<sup>73</sup> on a charge of high treason, arising from the activities of certain organisations to form a 'national liberation movement'.<sup>74</sup> Those arrested were all members and associates of some 48 left wing organisations which included the African National Congress, the South African Indian Congress, the Springbok Legion, the South African Society for Peace and Friendship with the Soviet, the Congress of Democrats, the Congress of the People, the Communist Party, Comintern and Cominform, the Congress of Trade Unions and the Friends of China Society. Following their arrest the detainees were taken to Court, remanded in custody, and then flown by military aircraft to Johannesburg to face Court proceedings.

Among those detained were Chief Albert Luthuli, the General President of the African National Congress, Dr G.M. Naiker, President of the Indian Congress and Mr L.B. Lee Warden M.P., the Natives' Representative for Cape Western.<sup>75</sup> Of the 23 Whites arrested half were Jews.<sup>76</sup> Included among them was Mrs Jaqueline Aronstein

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<sup>73</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, December 5, 1956, p.1., December 6, 1956, p.1., *The Natal Mercury*, December 10, 1956, p.1., December 12, 1956, p.2., *The Natal Daily News*, December 13, 1956, p.1.

<sup>74</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, December 20, 1956, p.1.

<sup>75</sup> *Ibid.*, December 5, 1956, pp.1-2.

<sup>76</sup> Gideon Shimoni, pp.227-228. They included Lionel Forman, Benjamin Turok, Mrs Sonia Bunting, Isaac Horvitch, Joe Slovo, Mrs Ruth Slovo, Lionel Bernstein, Hymie Barsel and Mrs Yetta Barenblatt.

of Durban, whose husband, Mr Rowley Arenstein, defended his wife and three of her co-accused in the special court in Durban, prior to their removal to Johannesburg.<sup>77</sup>

Mr Arenstein later appeared in the Durban Magistrates Court on behalf of others who, like his wife, were charged in connection with allegations of treason,<sup>78</sup> and also appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court and Drill Hall as one of the attorneys for the defence.<sup>79</sup>

Whilst Security Police detectives in all parts of the Union were still rounding up people on allegations of treason, branches of the Civil Liberties Defence Committee sprung up around South Africa. The Durban branch, which was hurriedly formed in twenty four hours of the first wave of arrests, immediately called a meeting in the *Ghandi Library Hall*, "to report to the people on the mass arrests."<sup>80</sup> Included among the seven invited speakers was Prof. Leo Kuper, the Provincial Chairman of the Liberal Party,<sup>81</sup> who, together with the other guest speakers, was subsequently charged with having unlawfully taken part in a meeting of Natives.<sup>82</sup> At the trial Mr Abe Goldberg, the former M.P., appeared for

<sup>77</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, December 5, 1956, p.2.

<sup>78</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, December 12, 1956, p.2., *The Natal Daily News*, December 13, 1956, p.13.

<sup>79</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, December 7, 1956, p.2.

<sup>80</sup>*Ibid.*, December 6, 1956, p.1.

<sup>81</sup>*Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, December 7, 1956, p.8.

<sup>82</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, January 29, 1957, p.9.

Prof. Kuper and Mr Alan Paton, one of Prof. Kuper's co-accused, and Mr Rowley Arenstein represented two of the other accused.<sup>83</sup> A number of Jewish residents were thus in some way affected by the Treason Trial and its repercussions.

Over a year after their arrest 61 of the accused, including Mrs Jaqueline Arenstein, were informed that the Crown had withdrawn its allegations against them.<sup>84</sup> For some of their co-accused it was to be four long years and two marathon trials before they were all acquitted.<sup>85</sup>

All the while that the Treason Trial was in progress the Government persevered with its legislative programme and persisted in its efforts to realise its goals for the country. In October 1956, considerable consternation was aroused in academic circles when the Minister of Native Affairs, Dr H.F. Verwoerd, called for racial segregation within the country's multiracial universities of the Witwatersrand and Cape Town.<sup>86</sup> Prominent South Africans, including Prof. Leo Kuper, the Professor of Sociology at the University of Natal, urged the Government to reconsider its decision,<sup>87</sup> but to no avail. In February 1957, the *Extension of University*

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>84</sup> *Ibid.*, December 18, 1957, p.1.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, March 28, 1961., pp.12-13.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, October 9, 1956, p.9.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, February 25, 1957, p.2.



*Education Bill* was introduced in the House of Assembly.<sup>88</sup>

In the meantime in Durban a great outcry followed the announcement of the Government's intention to take away the non-European Medical School from the University of Natal.<sup>89</sup> For the next two years a struggle for the retention of the Medical School by the University of Natal ensued, led by the Principal Dr E.G. Malherbe, and the Jewish Dean of the Medical School, Prof. I. Gordon.<sup>90</sup>

In February 1957, the University Council held an emergency meeting at which it expressed opposition to the Government plan and protested against the breach of University autonomy contained in the Government's measures.<sup>91</sup> To this protest was added the statement issued by the heads of the seven faculties of the Medical School including I. Gordon (Dean and Prof. of Pathology), Theodore Gillman (Prof. of Physiology), A.E. Kark (Prof. of Surgery), and Sidney Kark (Prof. of Social, Preventive and Family Medicine), which advanced more detailed arguments for opposing the transfer of the Medical School.<sup>92</sup> The stand taken by the Medical

<sup>88</sup> *Union of South Africa, Debates of the House of Assembly, Second Session, Twelfth Parliament, 23rd January to 1st July, 1959, XCIX (Cape Town) 26th February, 1959, cls.1535-1552.*

<sup>89</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 9, 1957, p.1.

<sup>90</sup> E.H. Brookes, *A History of the University of Natal*, (Pietermaritzburg, 1966), p.88.

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*, p.89.

<sup>92</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 14, 1957, p.3.

Faculty against the removal of the Medical School was supported furthermore by the majority of senior members and the academic staff of the Medical School including Dr E.M. Rosenberg, the senior lecturer in the Department of Psychology,<sup>93</sup> and by the staff of the University of Natal, including Prof. Leo Kuper.<sup>94</sup>

On February 20, 1957, a deputation from the University of Natal, in which Prof. Gordon was included, met with the Minister of Education, Mr J.H. Viljoen, to discuss the Government's intentions.<sup>95</sup> Refusing to make an exception in the case of the Medical School to its policy on separate university institutions for non-Europeans, the Government included the School within the scope of its *Separate University Education Bill* which was brought before Parliament in March 1957.<sup>96</sup>

The University was now fighting a two-fold battle, firstly over the general issue of academic segregation and secondly over the specific issue of the Medical School. Whilst the struggle to prevent the enforcement of *apartheid* within the University system was lost the University of Natal did succeed in retaining its Medical School, largely due to the enormous support which it was

<sup>93</sup> *Ibid.*, February 18, 1957, p.2.

<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*, February 16, 1957, p.9.

<sup>95</sup> *Ibid.*, February 21, 1957, p.1.

<sup>96</sup> *Union of South Africa Debates of the House of Assembly, Second Session, Twelfth Parliament 23rd January to 1st July, 1959, 26th February, 1959, cols.1535-1552.*

able to muster for its stand. The Administrator of Natal, the Natal Provincial Administration, the South African Medical and Dental Council, the Federated Council of the Medical Association of South Africa and the University of the Witwatersrand **all** came out in support of the University of Natal, and the staff of the Medical Faculty made clear their intention to resign if the Bill was implemented.

The Select Committee formed by Parliament to consider the Bill finally recommended that the Medical School be withdrawn from the operation of the Bill. Thus when academic segregation was approved, in terms of the *Extension of University Education Act of 1959*, provision was made to exempt the Medical School from the restricting provisions of the Act.<sup>97</sup> "This was undoubtedly a great victory, and whoever else is to be thanked for it the Principal and the Dean. Professor Gordon, must receive their full measure of praise."<sup>98</sup>

Although the University of Natal was principally concerned with the fate of its Medical School it had also shared in the wide-spread opposition to the *Extension of University Education Bill*. At a meeting held in September 1958, Professors L. Kuper and I. Gordon were among the panel of speakers who addressed a public

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<sup>97</sup> E.H. Brookes, pp.90-91.

<sup>98</sup> *Ibid.*, p.91.

meeting called to consider the implications of the Bill.<sup>99</sup> Once the Bill had been read a first time in Parliament,<sup>100</sup> opposition intensified and a solemn procession of 500 Natal University students, graduates and staff, led by Prof. L. Kuper and a Professor from the Department of Law, marched through central Durban in protest against the Bill.<sup>101</sup> After the Bill had passed a second reading<sup>102</sup> a public meeting was called to protest against it.<sup>103</sup> Among those invited to address the meeting was Prof. L. Kuper, whilst the motion of protest, with which the meeting was concluded, was moved by Mr A. Goldberg.<sup>104</sup> Shortly thereafter, however, the Bill became law and segregation within the Universities was enforced.<sup>105</sup>

Even as the struggle to maintain the open Universities was being waged further contentious

<sup>99</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, September 3, 1958, p.10.,  
September 4, 1958, p.2.

<sup>100</sup>*Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Second Sessions, Twelfth Parliament 23rd January to 1st July, 1959.* C (Cape Town), 26th February, 1959, cls.1535-1552.

<sup>101</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, April 11, 1959, p.1.

<sup>102</sup>*Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Second Session, Twelfth Parliament 23rd January to 1st July, 1959.* 8th April 1959, cls.3167-3529.

<sup>103</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, April 21, 1959, p.9.

<sup>104</sup>*Ibid.*, April 22, 1959, p.2.

<sup>105</sup>*Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Second Session, Twelfth Parliament 23rd January to 1st July, 1959.* 30th April 1959, cls.5016-5112.

legislation was being added to the Statute Books by the Government. In response to a bus boycott initiated by the Black residents of Alexandra Township, as a result of increased fares,<sup>106</sup> the Minister of Transport piloted the *Motor Carrier Transportation Bill of 1957* through Parliament. The Bill was aimed at ensuring that no other bus service would be allowed on routes where the existing boycotted bus service serving the Township was to be discontinued from the beginning of March,<sup>107</sup> and effectively broke the boycott.<sup>108</sup>

Widespread opposition greeted the *Native Law Amendment Act of 1957*<sup>109</sup> and in particular Clause 29 of the Act, which could be used to prevent a Black person from attending a Church service in any area outside a Black residential area. A similar prohibition could also be enforced to prevent such a person from attending a school, hospital, club or institution. The Clause also gave Dr Verwoerd, the Minister of Native Affairs,

<sup>106</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, January 7, 1957, p.2.

<sup>107</sup>*Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Fifth Session, Eleventh Parliament 18th January to 22nd June 1957*, XCIII (Cape Town) 27th February, 1957, cl.1795., 28th February, 1957, cls.1893-1988., 6th March, 1957, cls.2246-2282., 7th March, 1957, cls.2379-2416., *Ibid.*, XCV (Cape Town), 4th June, 1957, cls.7202-7210.

<sup>108</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, April 2, 1957, p.2.

<sup>109</sup>*Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Fifth Session, Eleventh Parliament, 18th January to 22nd June, 1957*, XCIV (Cape Town), 25th April, 1957, cls.4760-4851.

powers to prohibit the holding of any meeting, assembly or gathering including a social gathering which would be attended by a Black person outside his own areas.<sup>110</sup>

To the storm of protest aroused by the Act, was added the voice of the Council for the Defence of Freedom of Association. It incorporated 59 religious welfare and cultural bodies whose concern was that the implementation of the Act "would cripple the proper and effective function of numerous religious, cultural and social welfare organisations which had contributed enormously to the fostering of inter-racial harmony and goodwill, and to the spiritual and material welfare of the people of Durban."<sup>111</sup>

On November 12, 1957, a deputation from the Association attended a meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the City Council, to which all Councillors had been invited, and its spokesman, Mr Abe Goldberg, in his address to the Committee urged the Councillors "to protect the right of freedom of association and to recognise the necessity of multi-racial association for the conducting of vital communal activities, especially when called upon to exercise the powers conferred upon the Council by Clause 29 of the *Native Law Amendment*

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<sup>110</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, November 11, 1957, p.1.

<sup>111</sup>*Ibid.*, November 13, 1957, p.9.

Act."<sup>112</sup>

The General Purposes Committee recommended that the Association appear before the full Council, and on December 2, 1957, Mr Goldberg addressed himself, on behalf of his colleagues, to a meeting of all the City Councillors. Reiterating his earlier appeal, Mr Goldberg emphasised that it was only with the Council's consent that the Minister could close down certain institutions and that a recognition of freedom of association would make these safeguards that existed against the Act a reality.<sup>113</sup> In the light of Mr Goldberg's address the matter was referred back to the Council's General Purposes Committee,<sup>114</sup> which recommended that the City Council give due consideration to the representations made on behalf of the Association if and when the City Council was called upon to exercise the powers conferred upon it by Section 29 of the *Native*

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<sup>112</sup>Minutes of the City Council of the City of Durban. Minutes of Proceedings at a Meeting of the City Council of Durban, Held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings on Monday, 2nd December, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.119.

<sup>113</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, December 18, 1957, p.3.

<sup>114</sup>Minutes of the City Council of the City of Durban. Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the City Council of Durban, Held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings on Monday, 2nd December, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.120.

*Law Amendment Act.*<sup>115</sup> This recommendation came before the full Council on December 17, 1957, and was accepted without dissention,<sup>116</sup> to the delight of the Council for the Defence of Freedom of Association and its Jewish spokesman, Mr Goldberg, who had pleaded its cause so effectively.

Mr Goldberg's efforts to check the excesses of the Government's policies had brought him into further contact with the City Council, but in an entirely different capacity. In May 1957, Mr Goldberg had appeared before the Natal Group Areas Committee to plead the cause of the Indian ratepayers of the Sydenham and Overport areas. On that occasion he had vigorously attacked the City Council for its plans to relocate the Indian community<sup>117</sup> and had succeeded in his initial efforts to check their wholesale removal.

Government policy did not only affect the non-White peoples of the Union, but in its role as the champion of Afrikaner nationalism the Government caused consternation among the English speaking White community as well,

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through its efforts to weaken the country's ties with

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<sup>115</sup> Minutes of the City Council of the City of Durban. Minutes of Proceedings of a Meeting of the City Council of Durban, Held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings on Tuesday, 17th December, 1957, at 2.45 pm., p.195.

<sup>116</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, December 18, 1957, p.3.

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*, May 17, 1957, p.4.



Great Britain.

*The Flag Bill*, which passed through the Assembly early in 1957, and removed the Union Jack as one of South Africa's official flags,<sup>118</sup> met with considerable opposition from the English speaking section of the population. This opposition intensified shortly afterwards when the Prime Minister announced in the House of Assembly that *Die Stem van Suid Afrika* was to be the Union's only national anthem and that *G-d Save the Queen* was no longer to be one of the country's anthems.<sup>119</sup> In Durban in particular, with its predominantly English speaking population public opinion came out firmly in support of the retention of *G-d Save the Queen* as one of the country's anthems. The anthem was deliberately included in the annual Remembrance Day service, on November 10, 1957, although, in consequence of a Cabinet directive prohibiting the playing of any anthem but *Die Stem* at Government attended activities, it prevented units of the Defence Force and Military representatives from participating in the service,<sup>120</sup> and it proved to be the highlight of the ceremony.<sup>121</sup> On Remembrance Day

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<sup>118</sup> *Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Fifth Session, Eleventh Parliament, 18th January to 22nd June, 1957, XCIII*  
7th March, 1957, cls.2344-2379.

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*, XCIV, 2nd May, 1957, cls.5237-5244.

<sup>120</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, November 4, 1957, p.1.,  
November 5, 1957, p.1., November 7, 1957, p.1.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*, November 11, 1957, p.1.

itself the biggest crowd ever to assemble in the heart of Durban gathered to witness the M.O.T.H. Parade. Over 50,000 people congregated in the area of the Cenctaph in an unprecedented display of loyalty and affection to the Crown and climaxed the proceedings with a mighty rendition of the national anthem which they refused to discard.<sup>122</sup>

In 1959, public feeling in Durban, in respect of *G-d Save the Queen*, was again aroused when the City Council reviewed its policy of having only *Die Stem* played at the Civic Ball held annually for the Governor General.<sup>123</sup> As the Governor General was constitutionally debarred from attending any official function in the Union where *G-d Save the Queen* was played the City Council had to choose between offending the sensitivities of the ratepayers or of cancelling the Ball. The Council's General Purpose Committee recommended that the customary Ball be cancelled, and this was approved by the majority Council, including its three Jewish Councillors, Messrs Chait, Gild and Panovka.<sup>124</sup>

On April 16, 1958, the White citizens of South Africa again went to the polls and the National Party

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, November 12, 1957, p.1.

<sup>123</sup> *Ibid.*, May 13, 1959, p.1.

<sup>124</sup> Minutes of the City Council of the City of Durban. Minutes of Proceedings at a Meeting of the City Council of the City of Durban, Held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings on Tuesday, 2nd June, 1959, at 3.05 pm., pp.504-505.

succeeded in increasing its majority at the expense of the United Party,<sup>125</sup> which from 1956, had been led by Sir De Villiers Graaff.<sup>126</sup> Whilst a number of Jews played a very prominent part in the electoral machinery of the United Party in Natal, where it had enjoyed enormous success, not one member of the Jewish community of Durban stood for election to Parliament on behalf of the United Party or any other political party.<sup>127</sup> As no less than five Jews were elected to the Assembly,<sup>128</sup> it was clear that the Official Opposition, which they represented, did not bar Jews from seeking public office under its banner and this was equally true of the other Opposition parties as well.

If the root cause of the situation had lain in apathy it is highly unlikely that members of the Jewish community would, as has been noted, have been noticeably active in election activity. Nor would it appear to be accurate to ascribe the position to an anti-Jewish stance within the political parties, for both the United and the Liberal Parties had fielded Jewish candidates.<sup>129</sup> Instead it would seem that the contributory cause of this state of affairs lay in the relatively small size of the

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<sup>125</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 17, 1958, p.1.,  
April 18, 1958, p.1.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, November 22, 1956, p.1.

<sup>127</sup> *Hasholom*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 10.

<sup>128</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.302.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*

Jewish community of Durban, and the fact that the majority of Jews therefore had their extra-mural activities cut out for them, in that their energies were required in the field of Jewish communal endeavour.<sup>130</sup>

The absence of Jewish candidates in the General Election was in some way offset by the election for the Provincial Council seat of Congella, which was caused by the election of the sitting incumbent to Parliament. In this instance not one, but two, Jewish residents of the City came forward to make themselves available for election. The City Councillor, Mr D. Panovka, intimated his intention to stand as an Independent and Mr Harold Jacobs, a 39 year old pharmacist and active United Party worker, was nominated by his Party as its official candidate.<sup>131</sup> Following the withdrawal of Councillor Panovka's candidature Mr Jacobs was elected unopposed on June 16, 1958.<sup>132</sup> A year later during the Provincial Council elections Mr Jacobs successfully defended his seat for the United Party against an Independent candidate and was re-elected a Provincial Councillor with a majority of over 2,000 votes.<sup>133</sup>

The decline in the fortunes of the United Party during the 1958 General Election accelerated with a

<sup>130</sup> *Bashalom*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 20.

<sup>131</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 13, 1958, p.1.

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, June 17, 1958, p.9.

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*, October 15, 1959, p.4.

split in the Party in August 1959, when twelve of its M.P.'s broke away to form the Progressive Party under the leadership of Dr Jan Steytler.<sup>134</sup> The Party, which rejected the policy of apartheid, and advocated a qualified franchise,<sup>135</sup> attracted the more liberal elements of the United Party, such as Mr Abe Goldberg, into its ranks,<sup>136</sup> but failed to make deep inroads into the rank and file of the Opposition.

Only a few months after leading the National Party to victory in the General Election the Prime Minister, Mr J.G. Strydom, died on August 24, 1958, at the age of 65.<sup>137</sup> Concurrently with the State Memorial Service in Cape Town, memorial services were held throughout South Africa, including Durban, where a Civic Memorial Service was held in the City Hall, conducted by the Mayor's Chaplain. The service in Durban was not inter-denominational but clergy of all denominations were invited to sit on the platform, and among those present was Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, and Rabbi M. Miller of Temple David.<sup>138</sup> Although neither the general population of Durban, nor

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<sup>134</sup> *Ibid.*, August 13, 1959, p.1., August 14, 1959, p.1., August 15, 1959, p.1., August 17, 1959, p.1., August 18, 1959, p.1., September 18, 1959, p.5.

<sup>135</sup> *Ibid.*, November 14, 1959, p.1.

<sup>136</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, January 30, 1962, p.1.

<sup>137</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, August 25, 1958, p.1.

<sup>138</sup> *Ibid.*, August 28, 1958, p.2., August 29, 1958, p.13.

the Jewish residents of the City, had, during Mr Strydom's lifetime, demonstrated overt support for the late Prime Minister or his policies, the arrangement of a Civic Memorial Service, and the presence of the Jewish community's spiritual leaders, was in no way contradictory. The service was nothing less than an expression of sympathy and tribute on the passing of the country's elected leader and, as such, it was appropriate that the City of Durban convened such a service and that the rabbis of the Jewish community were in attendance. Similarly on the passing of the Governor General, Dr E.G. Jansen, in November 1959,<sup>139</sup> a Civic Memorial Service was held in Durban and Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock was amongst the religious leaders invited to assist the Mayor's Chaplain in conducting the service.<sup>140</sup>

The National Party caucus elected Dr H.F. Verwoerd as Mr Strydom's successor<sup>141</sup> and of all the Party's leaders, "his ascent to the premiership was viewed by Jews with the most circumspection on account of his prominent role in the anti-Jewish agitation of former years."<sup>142</sup> At an interview with a delegation from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, not long after he became Prime Minister, Dr Verwoerd sought, however, to

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<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, November 26, 1959, p.1.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, December 1, 1959, p.2.

<sup>141</sup> *Ibid.*, September 3, 1958, p.1.

<sup>142</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.272.

allay the Jewish community's doubts and the delegation was left with the impression that the Prime Minister was intent on following the policy of his predecessors in respect of the Jewish community.<sup>143</sup>

More than anyone else Dr Verwoerd is credited for having been the architect of *apartheid*, and he was principally responsible for transforming the goal of the policy from one of domination to one of separate development.<sup>144</sup> Considerable unrest and major constitutional developments characterised his premiership and members of the Jewish community, no less than other sections of the population, were caught up in the events of the time.

On a local level much discontent was aroused in Durban, in February 1959, when a meeting of the City Council's Planning and Development Control Committee, to which all City Councillors had been invited, decided that Cato Manor should be zoned for future White development.<sup>145</sup> The question of removing more than 75,000 Indians from this area, in terms of the Government's *Group Areas Act*, sharply divided the members of the Council, as indeed it did the entire community. Councillors Gild and Chait voted with the majority of

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*, p.273.

<sup>144</sup> B.J. Liebenberg, "From the Statute of Westminster to the Republic of South Africa, 1931-1961," in *500 Years A History of South Africa*, ed., C.P.J. Muller, (Pretoria n.d.), p.384.

<sup>145</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 11, 1959, p.9.

their colleagues in favour of the proposal, whilst their co-religionist and fellow Councillor, Mr Panovka, supported those who voted against it.<sup>146</sup>

The dissentients on the City Council were supported by a group of well known Durban citizens who hastily formed a committee under the chairmanship of the Most Rev. Denis Hurley, Archbishop of Durban. This committee, whose Jewish members included Mrs Eileen Goldberg, Mrs Rosemund Goldberg, Mr Abe Goldberg, Prof. Leo Kuper and Dr Nathan Smith, decided that a public meeting should be held in Durban to discuss the whole issue.<sup>147</sup> The requisition requesting the meeting was handed in at the City Hall, together with a resolution which condemned the removal of Indians from Cato Manor. Among the 51 signatories to the resolution were Mr Abe Goldberg, Dr Nathan Smith, Prof. Leo Kuper, Mr S.M. Berman and Mr J.J. Frankel.<sup>148</sup> More than 2,300 Durban citizens attended the meeting at the City Hall,<sup>149</sup> which was chaired by Mr Roy Fenhalls, and was addressed by five speakers, including Mr Abe Goldberg.<sup>150</sup> The extent of public opinion was such that the full City Council deferred from taking a

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<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*, February 16, 1959, p.3.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, February 24, 1959, p.1.

<sup>150</sup> *Ibid.*, p.2.



stand and referred the matter back to the Council's Committee.<sup>151</sup>

The storm aroused at municipal level by the actions of the City Council in respect of Government legislation concerning the Indian residents of Cato Manor was, however, overshadowed by the nationwide outcry from the Government's opponents which greeted Dr Verwoerd's *Promotion of Bantu Self Government Bill*.<sup>152</sup> The Bill, which provided for the creation of self governing Bantustans, also removed the Native Representatives who had been sitting in Parliament since 1936.

Shortly after the Bill's enactment, Senator Dr Leslie Rubin, the Liberal Party's Native Representative in the Senate, whom the older members of the Jewish community in Durban remembered as the son of one of their former Ministers, the late Rev. H. Rubin, tendered his resignation from the Senate to the Governor General. Simultaneously he announced his acceptance of an appointment as senior lecturer in law at the University College of Ghana and also as director of the Institute of

<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*, March 3, 1959, p.1.

<sup>152</sup> *Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Second Session, Twelfth Parliament 23rd January to 1st July, 1959.* C (Cape Town) 24th March, 1959, cls.3071-3089., *Ibid.*, C1 (Cape Town), 18th May, 1959, cls.6001-6099, 19th May, 1959, cls.6114-6206., 20th May, 1959, cls.6207-6304., 27th May, 1959, cls.6687-6786., 28th May, 1959, cls.6787-6873., 2nd June, 1959, cls.7092-7196.

African Law that was to be established in Ghana.<sup>153</sup>

*The Promotion of Bantu Self Government Act* failed to check the growing dissatisfaction amongst the country's Black people and during 1959, signs of increasing resistance became evident. Riots repeatedly broke out in various parts of the Union during 1959,<sup>154</sup> including Cato Manor, from whence large numbers of women moved off to attack beer halls and to demonstrate in other parts of Durban.<sup>155</sup> In January 1960, a further outburst of rioting erupted in Cato Manor that left a number of Black and White policemen dead.<sup>156</sup>

The Government sought to halt the unrest by clamping down on the leaders of the Black people and their organisations. In May 1959, two banning orders were served on Chief Albert Luthuli, the President General of the African National Congress, restricting him to the Groutville Mission Reserve near Stanger.<sup>157</sup> After attending a Congress meeting in Johannesburg, Chief Luthuli, in compliance with the orders, left by

<sup>153</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, November 16, 1959, p.2.

<sup>154</sup>*Ibid.*, August 17, 1959, p.1., August 18, 1959, p.1., November 10, 1959, p.1., November 11, 1959, p.1.

<sup>155</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, June 18, 1959, pp.1 and 3., June 19, 1959, p.1., *The Natal Mercury*, June 20, 1959, p.1., June 22, 1959, p.1., June 23, 1959, p.1., *The Natal Daily News*, June 23, 1959, p.1.

<sup>156</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, January 25, 1960, p.1., January 26, 1960, p.1.

<sup>157</sup>*Ibid.*, May 28, 1959, p.1.

air for Durban *en route* for Groutville. At the Louis Botha airport in Durban he was met by large numbers of Congress volunteers and a group of prominent leaders, including Prof. Leo Kuper, the Natal Coastal chairman of the Liberal Party.<sup>158</sup> Luthuli's banning aroused strong criticism and a meeting of protest was hastily organised in the *Ghandi Hall* in Durban, at which one of the two White speakers was Mr R.I. Arenstein, the banned chairman of the Congress of Democrats.<sup>159</sup> The Government was, however, determined to crush the African National Congress, and the banning of Chief Luthuli was followed by similar action against Mr Oliver Tambo, the Deputy President General,<sup>160</sup> and Mr Duma Nokwe, the Secretary General of the Congress.<sup>161</sup>

In Durban the Bantu Administration Committee, in an attempt to diffuse the situation, in terms of the *Native Urban Consolidation Act*, set into motion the machinery to ban from the Durban area nine Black leaders whose presence was alleged to be detrimental to the maintenance of peace and order in Durban.<sup>162</sup> By the narrow margin of one vote the City Council rejected this plan, the Jewish Councillors D. Panovka and A. Chait voting with

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<sup>158</sup> *Ibid.*, June 1, 1959, p.2.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*, June 11, 1959, p.2.

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*, June 13, 1959, p.1.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*, June 19, 1959, p.1.

<sup>162</sup> *Ibid.*, July 4, 1959, p.9.

the majority against the resolution.<sup>163</sup>

The measures adopted by the Government proved to be largely ineffectual in quelling the growing tide of Black resistance, and rioting continued unabated. In 1960, the Pan African Congress, the more militant offshoot of the African National Congress, instigated anti-pass demonstrations and called upon Blacks to leave their passes (identity documents) at home and to surrender to the police. Responding to this call a group of demonstrators marched on the police station at Sharpeville near Vereeniging, on March 21, 1960, and were fired upon by the police,<sup>164</sup> who killed 67 and wounded 186.<sup>165</sup> On the same day riots also broke out in Langa, near Cape Town, where buildings were burnt and a number of rioters were killed or injured.<sup>166</sup>

Sharpeville proved to be a turning point in South African history. In its wake market values dropped by more than E90,000 000 on the Rand Stock Exchange, the Security Council of the United Nations met to discuss South African police measures, and throughout the World demonstrations and protests against the Union Government and the police action at Sharpeville rose in crescendo.<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*, July 7, 1959, p.2.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*, March 22, 1960, p.1.

<sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*, March 23, 1960, p.1.

<sup>166</sup> *Ibid.*, March 22, 1960, p.1.

<sup>167</sup> *Ibid.*, March 25, 1960, p.1., March 28, 1960, p.1., April 2, 1960, p.3.

The South African Government reacted by prohibiting all public meetings throughout the Union<sup>168</sup> and by piloting the *Unlawful Organisations Act* through Parliament, in terms of which the Minister of Justice was able to ban the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress.<sup>169</sup> After declaring a state of emergency in 80 districts in the Union,<sup>170</sup> and mobilising units of the Active Citizen Force, the Government invoked the *Public Safety Act* in order to detain more than 150 people of all races, most of whom were leading members of a variety of political organisations. Apart from Chief Luthuli, Mr Peter Brown, the national chairman of the Liberal Party, Mrs Helen Joseph, of the Federation of South African Women, and Mr Duma Nokwe, general secretary of the African National Congress, the roll of those detained by special branch police included Mr R.I. Arenstein, who was a member of the Congress of Democrats.<sup>171</sup>

Mr Arenstein and all the other people detained

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<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*, March 25, 1960, p.1.

<sup>169</sup> *Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Third Session, Twelfth Parliament 15th January to 20th May, 1960, CIV*  
28th March, 1960, cls.4199-4217., 29th March, 1960, cls. 4301-4360., 30th March, 1960, cls.4365-4622., 1st April, 1960, cl.4651., 21st April, 1960, cls. 4735-4821.

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*, 29th March, 1960, cls.4363-4364.

<sup>171</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, March 30, 1960, pp.1-2.

during the police swoop in Durban were, however, released after their first day in detention, following an order by Mr Justice Henochsberg in the Supreme Court in Durban. Their release was the sequel to urgent applications brought by the wives of four of the detained, including Mrs J. Arenstein, against the Deputy Commissioner of Police. After hearing argument from a group of distinguished advocates, including Mr R.N. Leon Q.C., Mr A.E. Jacobs and Mr J. Gurwitz, who appeared for the applicants, and after the State was unable to provide documentary evidence of the promulgation of the emergency regulations, the Judge ordered the release of the four men. Later the others detained under similar circumstances in Durban were also released.<sup>172</sup>

The widescale arrests provoked more than 30,000 Blacks to march into Cape Town to demand the release of their leaders,<sup>173</sup> and led to sporadic outbreaks of violence in Black townships across the country,<sup>174</sup> which, under the weight of Government action, gradually subsided.<sup>175</sup>

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<sup>172</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, March 31, 1960, p.1.

<sup>173</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, March 30, 1960, p.1.

<sup>174</sup> *Ibid.*, March 31, 1960, p.1., *The Natal Mercury*, April 1, 1960, p.1., *The Natal Daily News*, April 1, 1960, p.1., April 2, 1960, p.1., *The Natal Mercury*, April 4, 1960, p.1., *The Natal Daily News*, April 4, 1960, p.1.

<sup>175</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 6, 1960, p.1., April 7, 1960, p.1.

Whilst the country was still reeling from the impact of the nationwide unrest and the imposition of a state of emergency, an unsuccessful attempt was made on the life of the Prime Minister, Dr H.F. Verwoerd, on April 9, 1960.<sup>176</sup> Coming in the midst of so much political uncertainty the attack on the Prime Minister took on added significance for the country and its future. Around the Union religious leaders called on their congregants to offer prayers for the Prime Minister's recovery. In the Synagogues in Durban such prayers were offered during the Passover services,<sup>177</sup> and the Jewish community, through the editorial column of *Hashalom*, joined in extending their good wishes for Dr Verwoerd's speedy recovery.<sup>178</sup>

The drastic steps taken by the Government had the effect of stifling all outward traces of resistance and unrest, but not without dramatic cost to personal freedom. By April 1960, the total number of people of all races detained under the emergency regulations alone, stood at 1,569.<sup>179</sup> Largely to help the families of those detained during the emergency, a relief fund, similar to that which had been started in other cities in the country, was launched in Durban. Among the

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<sup>176</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, April 9, 1960, p.1.

<sup>177</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, April 11, 1960, p.2.

<sup>178</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 3.

<sup>179</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, April 23, 1960, p.1.

sponsors of the Durban fund was Professor Leo Kuper, whose wife, Dr Hilda Kuper, served as a member of the committee.<sup>180</sup>

After 156 days of tension the state of emergency was terminated on August 31, 1960.<sup>181</sup> With the lifting of the state of emergency Mr Rowley Arenstein reappeared in Durban after having gone into hiding at the beginning of April, when he had been released from gaol by order of Mr Justice Henochsberg.<sup>182</sup> A month after his reappearance Mr Arenstein was served with two banning notices, restricting him to the magisterial district of Durban for five years and prohibiting him from attending any gathering in the Union or South West Africa during the same period.<sup>183</sup> The restrictions of his banning orders were, however, temporarily lifted so as to enable him to continue with his defence of 39 Pondos, who were appearing on a charge of arson in the Bizana Magistrates Court in the Transkei.<sup>184</sup>

At the height of the civil unrest in the country, the Prime Minister startled and surprised South Africa when he outlined his proposed legislation for a national referendum, requiring a bare majority, to decide for or

<sup>180</sup> *Ibid.*, p.4.

<sup>181</sup> *Ibid.*, August 27, 1960, p.1.

<sup>182</sup> *Ibid.*, September 3, 1960, p.9.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*, October 3, 1960, p.2.

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*, October 19, 1960, p.11., October 20, 1960, p.4.



against a republic.<sup>185</sup> His announcement caused great consternation within Opposition circles and immediately divided the electors into republicans and anti-republicans.<sup>186</sup>

The decision to hold a national referendum particularly shocked the voters of Natal, the majority of whom were anti-Nationalist and monarchist in sentiment.<sup>187</sup> This was affirmed, in February 1960, in Durban when the Progressive Party held its first mass meeting in Natal, at which an overflowing house in the City Hall congregated to demonstrate its opposition to the proposed republic.<sup>188</sup>

The sentiments of the voters of Durban were echoed in the House of Assembly, where the Opposition vigorously opposed the Bill for the Referendum<sup>189</sup> which, nevertheless, rapidly passed through all its stages in Parliament.<sup>190</sup> The voice of Natal on the question of the republic continued to be clearly articulated. In

<sup>185</sup> *Ibid.*, January 21, 1960, p.1.

<sup>186</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>187</sup> *Ibid.*, January 22, 1960, pp.1-2.

<sup>188</sup> *Ibid.*, February 12, 1960, p.1.

<sup>189</sup> *Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Third Session, Twelfth Parliament, 15th January to 20th May, 1960, CIV*  
11th March, 1960, cls.3198-3215., *Ibid.*, CV  
(Cape Town), 22nd April, 1960, cls.5873-5908,  
25th April, 1960, cls.5928-6011., 26th April, 1960,  
cls.6017-6109., 29th April, 1960, cls.6383-6400.

<sup>190</sup> *Ibid.*, CV, 2nd May, 1960, cls.6415-6491.

the Natal Provincial Council the United Party attacked the National Party's motion supporting a republic,<sup>191</sup> and at a meeting at the City Hall in Durban opposition to a republic was reaffirmed by the capacity crowd which gathered to hear addresses by Mr D. Mitchell, the United Party's Provincial Leader, and Mr Marais Steyn, M.P. for Yeoville.<sup>192</sup>

In the wake of Dr Verwoerd's announcement regarding a republic a move was initiated in the Durban City Council to abandon all plans for spending £5,000 on the forthcoming commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Union of South Africa. Councillor Mervyn Gild lent his support to this proposal, which enjoyed considerable support amongst the ratepayers but which failed by only two votes to gain the required two thirds majority.<sup>193</sup>

The celebrations that were held in Durban in connection with the Union Festival were, however, greatly subdued. They mirrored the general feeling of the citizenry and the people of Natal who were disturbed by the prospect of a republic and the increasingly authoritarian administration of the National Party, as reflected in their new *Education Bill* which sought to

<sup>191</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 6, 1960, p.1.

<sup>192</sup> *Ibid.*, May 10, 1960, p.1.

<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*, February 2, 1960, p.1.

assume complete control over the Provincial education systems.<sup>194</sup>

On May 24, 1960 the City Council of Durban held a special meeting at which it rededicated itself to the ideals of Union.<sup>195</sup> In keeping with the dominant mood of the local populace, the Council also took advantage of the occasion to adopt a resolution of loyalty to the Queen, in which she was assured of the continuing affection, allegiance and loyalty of all the peoples of the City.<sup>196</sup>

The celebrations in Durban also featured a Civic inter-denominational service of prayer and dedication which was held in the City Hall on May 29, 1960.<sup>197</sup> The service, which attracted only 300 people, was conducted by the Mayor's Chaplain, the Venerable Eustace Wade, Anglican Archdeacon of Durban, and was attended by leaders of other religious groups, including Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock,<sup>198</sup>

<sup>194</sup> *Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Third Session, Twelfth Parliament, 18th January to 20th May, 1960, CV*  
22nd April, 1960, cl.5790.

<sup>195</sup> Minutes of the City Council of the City of Durban. Minutes of Proceedings at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Durban, Held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings on Tuesday, 24th May, 1960, at 3.15 pm., pp.514-515.

<sup>196</sup> *Ibid.*, p.514.

<sup>197</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, May 28, 1960, p.6.

<sup>198</sup> *Ibid.*, May 30, 1960, p.11.

A feature of the Union Festival in Durban was a tableau of folk dancing from seven European countries, which was held at the Kingsmead Stadium.<sup>199</sup> Israel was represented by Rina Nikova and her dance troupe, who were enthusiastically welcomed by the Jewish community of the City.<sup>200</sup>

Through the *Habonim*, Durban Jewry also came to be represented at the principal celebrations in connection with the Union Festival, which were held in Bloemfontein. Fifteen members of the Durban Movement joined with their colleagues from other centres in South Africa to produce a pageant which was judged to be the highlight of the evening and a credit to the country's Jewish community.<sup>201</sup>

The question of the national referendum, which had clouded the Union Festival, took on a new sense of urgency with the announcement that October 5, 1960, would be the day on which South Africa's constitutional future would be decided. Both the United and Progressive Parties were caught up with seeking ways to secure an anti-republican majority. The two Parties conducted their campaign from offices that were set up in key constituencies around Durban. In Morningside, where no suitable office could be found, Mrs H.L. Magid organised

<sup>199</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 6, 1960, p.12.

<sup>200</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, May 13, 1960, p.4.

<sup>201</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, Held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th June, 1960, at 8 pm., p.7.

the anti-republican activities for her area from a caravan which was sited in the garden of a private home.<sup>202</sup> The mood of the voters of Durban was clearly reflected in the size of the crowd, estimated at 25,000, which surrounded the City Hall portico and jammed the streets and vantage points in the vicinity in order to hear an address by Sir De Villiers Graaff, the leader of the Anti-Republican Front, and to express its rejection of a republic.<sup>203</sup>

When the voters, of Durban, went to the ballot boxes on October 5 they predictably recorded a resounding No vote against a republic.<sup>204</sup> The overall result of the referendum however, was a victory for the Republicans, 850,458 votes having been cast in favour of a republic and 775,858 against it.<sup>205</sup>

In Natal, where the majority of voters had rejected republicanism,<sup>206</sup> there was uncertainty as to what course to pursue, following the victory of pro-republican forces. On October 14 the first major anti-republican rally in South Africa following the referendum was held in Albert Park. As columns of young men and women marched through the streets of the City on their way to

<sup>202</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, August 29, 1960, p.7.

<sup>203</sup>*Ibid.*, September 20, 1960, p.1.

<sup>204</sup>*Ibid.*, October 6, 1960, p.1.

<sup>205</sup>*Ibid.*, October 7, 1960, p.1.

<sup>206</sup>In Natal, 135,598 voted against a republic and 42,299 in favour of it (*Ibid.*).

the park their chants of "No, No, No" were applauded by large crowds along their route, indicating the sentiments of the local populace.<sup>207</sup>

As talk of secession and partition from the Union became more pronounced in Natal both the United and Progressive Parties came out against such a move.<sup>208</sup> In the Opposition controlled Natal Provincial Council Mr H. Jacobs M.P.C. and his colleagues unanimously passed a momentous resolution asking the Union Government to entrench certain basic rights and for wider Provincial powers, as safeguards for Natal's future relationship with a South African republic.<sup>209</sup> The Provincial Council's call for greater Provincial autonomy and the entrenchment of certain rights in the new Constitution was widely supported in Natal.<sup>210</sup> It failed, however, to influence Dr Verwoerd who dismissed Natal's fears of the Republic as "unfortunate and unnecessary."<sup>211</sup>

In view of the tense situation that prevailed in the country following the referendum, a group of Durban citizens issued a call for a two minute pause for prayer, as a means of bringing about greater tolerance and understanding amongst the peoples of South Africa. This

<sup>207</sup> *Ibid.*, October 15, 1960, p.1.

<sup>208</sup> *Ibid.*, p.4.

<sup>209</sup> *Ibid.*, November 1, 1960, p.1.

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, November 15, 1960, p.1.

<sup>211</sup> *Ibid.*, December 13, 1960, p.1.

suggestion was generally welcomed and gained the support of a large number of religious leaders of all denominations, including Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation.<sup>212</sup>

The tension within the country increased, however, when in March 1961, contrary to his promise that the Republic would remain within the British Commonwealth, Dr Verwoerd decided, in the face of criticism of his country's racial policies, to withdraw South Africa's application for continued membership of the Commonwealth. The country was stunned by this news and those who had voted against the republic, out of a fear that it would have the effect of further isolating the country from the rest of the world, felt their fears had been confirmed. In the light of these developments Sir De Villiers Graaff called for a second republican referendum, but to no avail.<sup>213</sup> On April 21, the *Constitution Bill*, which transformed South Africa from a monarchy to a republic outside the British Commonwealth, passed its final stages in Parliament.<sup>214</sup>

In the weeks immediately prior to the declaration of the republic, on May 31, 1961, escalating tension and increased talk of anti-republican and anti-apartheid

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<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*, October 12, 1960, p.4.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*, March 16, 1961, p.1.

<sup>214</sup> *Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Fourth Session, Twelfth Parliament, 20th January to 26th May, 1961, CVII (Cape Town) 12th April, 1961, cls.4323-4382., The Natal Mercury, April 22, 1961, p.1.*

demonstrations prompted severe action on the part of the Government. On May 2 and 3, thousands of detectives and uniformed policemen raided the homes of Whites and Blacks around the country in an attempt to forestall the demonstrations.<sup>215</sup> Among the Durban homes visited during the raid was that of Mr Rowley Arenstein.<sup>216</sup>

Drastic steps were also taken by the Government to widen the existing security laws and to impose sterner penalties for offences covered by them.<sup>217</sup> *The General Law Amendment Bill*, which the Minister of Justice hastily steered through Parliament, in essence gave the Government emergency powers without it having to actually declare a state of emergency.<sup>218</sup> Within hours of its promulgation all meetings were banned in the Union and South West Africa from May 19 to June 26, 1961.<sup>219</sup> The severity of the law was reflected in the arrest of Mr Leonard Bloom, and one of his colleagues in the Liberal Party, for having distributed pamphlets issued by their Party advocating the summoning

<sup>215</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, May 3, 1961, p.1.

<sup>216</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, May 4, 1961, p.2.

<sup>217</sup>*Ibid.*, May 5, 1961, p.1.

<sup>218</sup>*Union of South Africa. Debates of the House of Assembly, Fourth Session, Twelfth Parliament, 20th January to 28th May, 1961, CVIII (Cape Town) 3rd May, 1961, cl.5784., 8th May, 1961, cls.6058-6151., 9th May, 1961, cls.6157-6251., 10th May, 1961, cls.6252-6327., 15th May, 1961, cls.6339-6355.*

<sup>219</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, May 19, 1961, p.1.



of a National Convention.<sup>220</sup>

The clamp down by the Government on its most vociferous opponents was paralleled by a rise in the activities of right wing extremists. In one incident people who had been attending a Liberal Party sponsored meeting in Albert Park returned to their motor cars to find Ku Klux Klan pamphlets on their windshields. These bore the imprint "To hell with Jewry, anti-Apartheidists and Communists. Long Liveth the White Republic and the President."<sup>221</sup> A more extreme case was the raid by five White gunmen on the home of Mr and Mrs Rowley Arenstein, who had been warned in a letter, signed by "A Baron, Order of the Green Dragon," that they would die the Ku Klux Klan death. This letter prompted friends of the family to form a bodyguard for Mr Arenstein. When five hooded gunmen did enter the grounds of the Arenstein's Berea home, and detected that the house was being guarded, a running battle ensued. The only casualty was Mr Ronnie Kasril, who was grazed by a bullet as he tried to throw a brick at the attackers escape car.<sup>222</sup>

The extraordinary salience of Jewish individuals in the White opposition to apartheid was largely what prompted right wing extremists, such as the above

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<sup>220</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, May 26, 1961, p.2.

<sup>221</sup>*Ibid.*, May 19, 1961, p.1.

<sup>222</sup>*Ibid.*, May 29, 1961, p.1.

mentioned to equate the Jewish community with the White opposition to *apartheid*. As in Afrikaner eyes generally *apartheid* was intrinsic to their political aspirations, opposition to this policy was perceived as opposition to the Afrikaner national movement. The prominence of Jews in opposition was therefore also widely commented upon in pro-Government circles.<sup>223</sup> In truth, however, whilst many White liberals and radicals were Jews the vast majority of Jews did not, in fact, align themselves with these streams of political opposition to the *apartheid* system and tended rather "to cluster around a position in the political spectrum somewhat to the left of the centre."<sup>224</sup>

On May 31, 1961, the republic received an icy welcome in Natal where the Durban Pietermaritzburg City Councils had refused to sponsor celebrations.<sup>225</sup> Amongst South African Jewry generally the country's severance of its ties with the British Commonwealth aroused no apparent anxiety,<sup>226</sup> although in Natal the Jewish population no doubt shared the misgivings of its Gentile neighbours. Durban Jewry, through the editorial columns of *Haskalom* nevertheless pledged its allegiance to the new Republic and to its President, Mr C.R. Swart, and expressed the

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<sup>223</sup>Gideon Shimoni, pp.226-229.

<sup>224</sup>*Ibid.*, p.304.

<sup>225</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, May 31, 1961, p.2.

<sup>226</sup>Gideon Shimoni, p.302.

hope that a just solution to the problems and challenges which faced South Africa would be found.<sup>227</sup>

Like White South Africans of other religious persuasions the members of the Jewish community of Durban had, in the aftermath of Sharpeville and the months preceding the creation of the Republic, considered whether to remain in the country or to join those who had sought new homes elsewhere. Whilst certain communal figures such as Professor Leo Kuper and Dr Hilda Kuper had chosen to emigrate,<sup>228</sup> by and large the Durban Jewish community had decided to stay, and after long, careful thought and with a clear conception of all the implications had, furthermore, committed itself to strengthen its inner consciousness so as to ensure its continuance.

In order to attain their objective the members of the community had accepted upon themselves the financial obligations in respect of their decision. The Durban Jewish Club, for so long the communal centre, had been enlarged at enormous expense. The erection of a new synagogue by the Durban United Hebrew Congregation and the engagement of additional officials had come about not only through the desire and determination to strengthen Judaism in the City, but through the acceptance of further financial obligations. Prevailing circumstances had, furthermore, in no way altered the plans for the

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<sup>227</sup> *Haahalom*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 2.

<sup>228</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, September 22, 1961, pp.1-2.,  
*The Daily News*, September 13, 1962, p.2.

development of a Jewish high school, which, it was recognised, would have to be heavily subsidised by the community. Durban Jewry had therefore clearly made an assessment and a decision. It had decided not only to remain, but as proof of its intention and of its determination to remain Jewish had committed itself to the expansion of its communal institutions.<sup>229</sup>

The community's decision not to leave South Africa, but rather to stay and to contribute in some way to the Republic's development found its highest expression in the decision by Major Edgar Baden Isaacs to accept nomination in the General Election of October 1961, for the first Republican Parliament.

Major Isaacs was a company director and chairman of a building society whose family had long and close ties with the City of Durban and its Jewish community. The wedding of his parents James Henry Isaacs and Jenny Granger, in January, 1884, had been the first Jewish marriage service to be solemnised in Durban, and he had made his particular contribution to Jewish communal life principally through his service to the Reform Congregation, of which he was a founder member.<sup>230</sup> As the candidate for the United Party in the Musgrave constituency Major Isaacs gained election to Parliament

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<sup>229</sup>*Eshalom Roah Neshanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 13.

<sup>230</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, January 19, 1963, p.20.

by defeating his Progressive Party opponent by 959 votes.<sup>231</sup> His Party, however, fared less favourably overall with losses on its right and left flanks which left it a numerically smaller **Opposition**.<sup>232</sup>

En route to his first session of Parliament, in January 1962, Major Isaacs collapsed and suddenly died on the train on which he was travelling to Cape Town.<sup>233</sup> The high tribute paid to him at his funeral, which was conducted with full military honours,<sup>234</sup> was echoed in Parliament, after its opening by the Prime Minister who was supported by Sir De Villiers Graaff on behalf of the Opposition.<sup>235</sup>

The creation of the Republic in no way dispelled the undercurrent of distrust within the country, as was evident from the banning of Ronnie Kasrils,<sup>236</sup> nor did it reduce the pressure on South Africa from without by the international community. Instead it led to an intensification of opposition to the country's *apartheid* policy. At home this manifested itself in underground

<sup>231</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, October 19, 1961, p.1.

<sup>232</sup>*Ibid.*, October 20, 1961, p.1.

<sup>233</sup>*Ibid.*, January 15, 1962, p.2.

<sup>234</sup>*Ibid.*, January 18, 1962, p.3.

<sup>235</sup>*Republic of South Africa. Debates of the House. First Session, Second Parliament, Republic of South Africa, 19th January to 23rd June, 1962, II, III, and IV (Cape Town) Friday, 19th January, 1962, cls.16-18.*

<sup>236</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, October 23, 1961, p.3.

violence by the African National Congress, the Pan African Congress and its offshoot organisations, which had been outlawed by the South African Government.<sup>237</sup> Outside the Republic it took the form of increased condemnation of South Africa in the international forums.

In October 1961, South Africa was severely censured for its racial policies by the members of the United Nations. The General Assembly's debate on South Africa precipitated a crisis in relations between Israel and South Africa because of Israel's support alone amongst the Western nations, for the World body's anti-apartheid campaign.<sup>238</sup> Coming in the wake of Israel's repeated identification with South Africa's critics, it caused great embarrassment within official Jewish circles in the Republic, and placed a great strain on the sympathy generally shown by the National Party and the Afrikaner Press for Israel.<sup>239</sup>

The whole issue took on a new dimension with the publication by the Press of a letter from the Prime Minister in which he set out his attitude to Israel and to the Jews in South Africa. The letter, which was received by a Cape Town professional man, Mr S.A. East, was in response to a letter which he had written to

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<sup>237</sup> *Ibid.*, December 18, 1961, p.1., December 21, 1961, p.1., December 22, 1961, p.1.

<sup>238</sup> Gideon Shimoni, pp.305-307.

<sup>239</sup> See *Ibid.*, pp.221-224, 308-317.

Dr Verwoerd, in which he deplored Israel's condemnation of South Africa. In his letter Dr Verwoerd spoke of a new line of thought towards Israel, and described that country's attitude at the United Nations as "a tragedy for Jewry in South Africa."<sup>240</sup> "Fortunately," the Prime Minister continued, "the reaction of many Jews and Jewish organisations in South Africa was such that what might have been worse was relieved to a certain extent by this pro-South African reaction." Verwoerd's veiled reference to the tenuous position of South African Jewry was taken a stage further by his comment that, "The fact that during the past election so many Jews had favoured the Progressive Party and so few the Nationalist Party did not pass unnoticed and this act of Israel, coming at the same time, together with other attacks on the policy of separate development, is a tragedy."<sup>241</sup>

The disclosure of the contents of Dr Verwoerd's letter led to widespread condemnation of his attitude in the English press<sup>242</sup> and aroused consternation in Israeli political circles.<sup>243</sup> The Afrikaans press, on the other hand, shared the Prime Minister's resentment of Israel's action and refuted the allegation that Dr Verwoerd's statement had contained anti-Semitic overtones.<sup>244</sup> In

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<sup>240</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, November 20, 1961, p.2.

<sup>241</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>242</sup> *Ibid.*, November 21, 1961, p.10.

<sup>243</sup> *Ibid.*, November 22, 1961, p.1.

<sup>244</sup> Gideon Shimoni, pp.312-313.

an address to the Witwatersrand Executive of the National Party Dr Verwoerd responded to the controversy caused by his letter. He lashed out at the support which Israel had given to the United Nation's call for sanctions against the Republic,<sup>245</sup> and attacked Mr East for divulging the contents of a private letter that he had written to him. "If I want to threaten the Jews of South Africa I will not do it privately," he said, "I will threaten the whole lot of them. But I do not want to divide the White people of South Africa...This Government has never been anti-Semitic and I urge Nationalists not to allow the propaganda which results from this letter to drive them to anti-Semitism."<sup>246</sup>

Although this whole incident did not give way to any overt anti-Semitism within the Republic it did place a great strain on the Republic's relations with Israel. This, in itself, caused much consternation to the local Jewish community which, although firmly rooted in South Africa, felt a close spiritual bond with the Jewish State.

Whilst preoccupied by circumstances at home South Africans were in no way oblivious to events of international significance beyond the country's borders. Not only were such events closely monitored by the media, but on occasion they came, either directly or indirectly, to effect the local Jewish population.

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<sup>245</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, November 14, 1961, p.1.

<sup>246</sup>*Ibid.*, November 23, 1961, p.1.



For Jewry worldwide 1956 was marred by the tension in the Middle East<sup>247</sup> and the resultant Israeli invasion of Egypt.<sup>248</sup> Durban Jewry shared with its co-religionists around the world the anguish of that trying time, and the joy and pride which came from Israel's dramatic military victory.<sup>249</sup> It shared too the cynicism felt in Israel over United Nation's peace keeping guarantees,<sup>250</sup> and the bitterness which resulted from international demands for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.<sup>251</sup>

Together with the nations of the free world the support and admiration of the Jewish community and of the South African people also went out to the people of Hungary who, in 1956, were caught up in a fierce

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<sup>247</sup> *Ibid.*, July 27, 1956, p.1., July 30, 1956, p.1., August 1, 1956, p.1., August 3, 1956, p.1., August 8, 1956, p.1., August 11, 1956, p.1., August 18, 1956, p.1., August 25, 1956, p.1., August 27, 1956, p.1., September 1, 1956, p.1., September 4, 1956, p.1., September 10, 1956, p.1., September 13, 1956, p.1., September 18, 1956, p.1., September 22, 1956, p.1., September 25, 1956, p.1., October 6, 1956, p.1., October 15, 1956, p.1., October 29, 1956, p.1. On the Suez Crisis see Russell Braddon, *Suez: Splitting of a Nation*, (London, 1973).

<sup>248</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, October 30, 1956, p.1., On the Sinai Campaign see Howard Morley Sachar, *The Course of Modern Jewish History*, (New York, 1958), pp.561-565.

<sup>249</sup> *Escholo*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 2-3.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.7 (February, 1957), 2-3.

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*, 12-14.

struggle with the Soviet Union for their freedom.<sup>252</sup>

As the Hungarian patriots battled against the numerically and military superior Soviet invaders<sup>253</sup> steps were taken in Durban, and in other major centres of the Union, to raise money for the Governor General's Hungarian Relief Fund. At the command of the Mayor of Durban a charity concert was held in aid of the Fund by the Durban Civic Orchestra. Among the soloists selected for the concert was the Jewish violinist Stefan Deak.<sup>254</sup> Under the patronage of the Administrator of Natal, Mr D.G. Shepstone, and Mrs Shepstone, a dinner dance was also held for the benefit of the Fund at the *Butterworth Hotel* on December 13, 1956. As an expression of sympathy with its object the hotel's proprietor, Mr S. Kahn, kindly lent the organisers of the function the band, dance floor and service free of charge for the evening.<sup>255</sup>

One of the few South Africans to have direct

<sup>252</sup> Paul Ignotus, *Hungary*, (London, 1972), pp.236-254., See also *The Natal Mercury*, October 25, 1956, p.1., October 26, 1956, p.1., October 27, 1956, p.1., October 28, 1956, p.1., November 1, 1956, p.11.

<sup>253</sup> Paul Ignotus, pp.236-254., *The Natal Mercury*, November 3, 1956, p.1., November 5, 1956, p.1., November 6, 1956, p.1., November 7, 1956, p.1., November 8, 1956, p.2., November 9, 1956, p.2., November 15, 1956, pp.1-2., November 20, 1956, p.1., November 24, 1956, p.1., December 3, 1956, p.1., December 11, 1956, p.1., December 12, 1956, p.1., December 14, 1956, p.3., December 17, 1956, p.9.

<sup>254</sup> *Ibid.*, December 5, 1956, p.12.

<sup>255</sup> *Ibid.*, December 1, 1956, p.11.

contact with the thousands of homeless Hungarian refugees who had fled to Austria was Sister Helen Cohn.

Sister Cohn, who had worked with the Institute of Family Health at Clairwood before tackling a World Health Organisation assignment in Israel some months earlier, went with the American Joint Distribution Committee to Vienna to try and assist the refugees from Hungary. Her work was principally of a clerical nature and involved the filing of particulars about the Jews who were amongst the Hungarian refugees.<sup>256</sup>

By December 1956, South Africa came to be increasingly conscious of the plight of Hungarian refugees as the first such refugees to be permitted to settle in the Union arrived in their new homes. Special committees were set up in the larger cities to help raise funds for these Hungarian immigrants. Such a committee was also formed in Durban by the Mayor, Councillor P. Osborn, and included among its members were Mr Malcolm Freed, Mr I. Gesben and Mrs H.L. Magid.<sup>257</sup>

Whilst in 1959, Soviet rockets made exploratory visits to the moon.<sup>258</sup> and the world rejoiced in man's technological advancement, that was to soon lead to the

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid.*, December 20, 1956, p.3.

<sup>257</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, December 21, 1956, p.1.

<sup>258</sup> Wernher von Braun, and Fredrick I. Ordway III, *History of Rocketry and Space Travel*, (United States of America, 1967), pp.180-201., *The Natal Mercury*, September 14, 1959, p.1., October 27, 1959, p.1.

orbiting of the earth,<sup>259</sup> it came to be confronted by man's baser nature as a wave of anti-Semitism swept the world.

Beginning in West Germany, where on Christmas eve the Cologne Synagogue was desecrated with daubed swastikas,<sup>260</sup> anti-Jewish slogans and swastikas were printed on synagogues and Jewish owned buildings in other parts of the Federal Republic,<sup>261</sup> Austria, Belgium, Norway and Great Britain.<sup>262</sup> Before long the Nazi-style Jew-baiting which was sweeping Europe reached Durban where, on January 4, 1960, pamphlets containing a scurrilous and blasphemous attack on the Jewish religion were pasted on windows of Jewish owned shops.<sup>263</sup> Leading clergymen and prominent Durban residents expressed their disgust at the appearance of anti-Jewish pamphlets in the City, and were equally critical of the posting of a crude cartoon on the gate of Park Street Synagogue.<sup>264</sup> Similar disdain was showered on those responsible for abusive telephone calls which were made to a number of Durban Jewish families by an anonymous woman, who swore

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<sup>259</sup>Wernher von Braun and Fredrick I. Ordway III, p.204., *The Natal Mercury*, April 13, 1961, p.1., May 6, 1961, p.1.

<sup>260</sup>*Ibid.*, December 28, 1959, p.6.

<sup>261</sup>*Ibid.*, December 31, 1959, p.2.

<sup>262</sup>*Ibid.*, January 4, 1960, p.4.

<sup>263</sup>*Ibid.*, January 5, 1960, pp.1-2.

<sup>264</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, January 5, 1960, p.1.

and chanted anti-Jewish slogans at her victims.<sup>265</sup>

While fresh incidents of neo-Nazi activity continued to be reported from the Continent, the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia, world leaders united in condemning such activity and in Durban the City police posted guards at all synagogues.<sup>266</sup> Swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans continued, however, to appear in widely spread parts of the globe and in the Republic incidents were reported as well in Cape Town,<sup>267</sup> Pretoria, Johannesburg, Vryheid,<sup>268</sup> Benoni,<sup>269</sup> and Pietermaritzburg.<sup>270</sup>

Scant sympathy was shown by the Government, the press or the general public of South Africa for such anti-Semitic behaviour.<sup>271</sup> Although Jewish communal leaders in Durban claimed not to attach much importance to the neo-Nazi activities in Durban,<sup>272</sup> and the recrudescence of Neo-Nazism world-wide was generally

<sup>265</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 22, 1960, p.4.

<sup>266</sup> *Ibid.*, January 4, 1960, p.1.

<sup>267</sup> *Ibid.*, January 9, 1960, p.2.

<sup>268</sup> *Ibid.*, January 8, 1960, p.11.

<sup>269</sup> *Ibid.*, January 9, 1960, p.2.

<sup>270</sup> *Ibid.*, January 13, 1960, p.2.

<sup>271</sup> *Ibid.*, January 6, 1960, p.8., January 8, 1960, p.5., January 13, 1960, p.8.

<sup>272</sup> *South African Jewish Times*, January 8, 1960, p.2.

dismissed as the work of inconsequential individuals,<sup>273</sup> the local Jewish community was both angered and disturbed by such incidents.<sup>274</sup>

With the speed with which it had emerged and spread, this most serious outbreak of neo-Nazism in the post-World War II period disappeared with equal rapidity. It had survived long enough though for Jewry, and the world, to recognise that whilst Hitler was now long dead his evil philosophy survived.

The uncertainty with which Jewry entered the decade of the Sixties, in consequence of the world-wide Nazi agitation, was shared for different reasons by the people of South Africa and the African continent. The political tension within the borders of South Africa was only one manifestation of the instability that was then sweeping through Africa, and which reached frightening proportions for the White residents of the former Belgian Congo.

Following the announcement of plans for the Congo's independence, White residents made preparations to leave the country anticipating anti-White incidents after Independence Day.<sup>275</sup> Subsequent developments in the Congo proved that their fears were not without foundation. Immediately after attaining its independence the country

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<sup>273</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 13, 1960, p.8.

<sup>274</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.5] (January, 1960), 2.

<sup>275</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, June 2, 1960, p.15., June 3, 1960, p.3.

was torn by strife and the remaining Whites in the Country had to be evacuated by the Belgian Army.<sup>276</sup>

Included among the Congolese refugees who found their way to South Africa were a number of Jews, and those who chose to settle in Durban were afforded every possible assistance by the community. The Council of Natal Jewry and the Durban Jewish Welfare Association collaborated closely in this regard, supplementing the work of Government authorities and the Red Cross Society, and in particular they sought to integrate the refugees into the general community by securing employment for them.<sup>277</sup>

As the fighting in the Congo extended into a practical civil war<sup>278</sup> the remaining Whites fled the country, many moving southwards to take up residence in South Africa. To help meet the needs of those who were their co-religionists the Jews of Durban formed a committee to co-ordinate their relief work in the City. Representatives of the Council of Natal Jewry, the

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<sup>276</sup> Henri Grimal, *Decolonisation the British, French, Dutch and Belgian Empires 1919-1963*. (London, 1978), pp.332-339. *The Natal Mercury*, July 8, 1960, p.1., July 9, 1960, p.1., July 11, 1960, p.1.

<sup>277</sup> *Shashalom*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 3.. *Ibid.*, XXXVIII No.12 (August, 1960), 33.

<sup>278</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, July 12, 1960, p.1., July 13, 1960, p.1., July 14, 1960, p.1., July 20, 1960, p.1., July 22, 1960, p.1., July 26, 1960, p.1., August 3, 1960, p.1., August 5, 1960, p.1., August 12, 1960, p.1., August 15, 1960, p.1., September 15, 1960, p.1., December 10, 1960, p.1., January 14, 1961, p.1., February 14, 1961, p.1.

Durban Jewish Welfare Association, the Durban Jewish Club, the Union of Jewish Women and the Sisterhood of Temple David were appointed to serve on this committee, and Mr Louis Gower was appointed its chairman. At the same time the Committee was invited to attend a special meeting called by the Mayor of Durban, Councillor C.A. Milne, for the purpose of setting up a general Relief Committee for the refugees. Messrs. I. Geshen, L. Gower and Mrs E. Stange attended the Mayoral meeting, and the two gentlemen were elected to the Refugee Committee which was subsequently set up under the Mayor's patronage.<sup>279</sup>

The Jewish community was thus involved, at both the communal and wider level, in aiding the refugees in Durban and this dual involvement essentially characterised their position and role in the City. For whilst they were concerned with the maintenance and advancement of their communal institutions, Durban Jewry found time to share in the general life of the population and to make their distinct personal contribution, whether in commerce, local government or in affairs of national importance. Sharing too in the political upheavals of the time, individuals from within the community came forward to champion their political beliefs and to share with like-minded South African's their concern for their country's future. Having endured, together with their

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<sup>279</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Communal Offices on Thursday, 13th September, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.



countrymen, the trials and political uncertainties of the period the Jewish community of Durban generally remained resolved not to leave their homes and their City, but rather to remain and share in the challenges of the new era which dawned for South Africa with the creation of the Republic.

## CHAPTER XLVI

THE COUNCIL OFNATAL JEWRY : 1956 - 1961

The Council of Natal Jewry, which was in many respects the nerve centre of the community, was by this period firmly rooted in communal life and a significant force in the affairs of the Jewish community. By keeping abreast of the developments within the local and wider Jewish community and at the same time remaining true to the ideals of its founders, the C.N.J. succeeded in retaining its purpose, relevance and prestige.

In addition to carrying out its functions as the co-ordinating body of Natal Jewry the Council continued to act as the Natal Committee of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. In this latter role it participated in the Board's Inter-Provincial Conferences<sup>1</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXIV No.9 (June, 1956), 29., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th 1959, at 8 pm., p.2., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., pp.1-2., *Haskolom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1959), 33., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 39., *Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 48.

Biennial Congresses,<sup>2</sup> where it not only contributed to the formulation of national policy but also to the alleviation of problems which concerned the wider Jewish community. Apart from these more formal occasions contact with the Board was maintained through infrequent visits to Durban by Mr Gustav Saron, its General Secretary, and other of its leading members.<sup>3</sup>

The work of the Board of Deputies in respect of Country Communities was carried out in Natal by the Council of Natal Jewry, under the aegis of the Jewish Education Council. During 1958, consideration was, in fact, given to the question of separating the Country Communities Committee from the other activities of the

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<sup>2</sup>At the 21st Congress, held in Johannesburg from March 13-16, 1958, the Council was represented by Messrs I.J. Greenberg, J. Goldberg, C.R. Fridjohn, I. Geshen, Jonathan Goldberg, A. Levine, S. Moshal and Dr N. Smith. Mr D. Spector also attended in his capacity as Secretary. (Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.2.). At the 22nd Congress, held in Johannesburg from September 1-5, 1960, the Council's delegation consisted of Messrs J. Goldberg, A. Miller, H.L. Magid, A. Levine and H. Zulman, who were accompanied by Mr D. Spector. (Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.).

<sup>3</sup>*Hasholom*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 27., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 27., *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.5] (January, 1958), 33.

Education Council,<sup>4</sup> as a result of the boycott by the Durban Progressive Jewish Congregation and the Temple David Hebrew School of the Education Council's Electoral College. Their reason for boycotting the Electoral College was that a member elected to the Jewish Education Council, because of his affiliation to the Progressive Movement, was excluded from certain meetings which discussed the problems of country communities which traditionally came under the aegis of Orthodoxy. Whilst the Progressive Congregation asserted that it was not pressing, at that stage, for representation on committees such as the Country Communities Committee it was of the opinion that the Jewish Educational Council should be divorced from the Country Communities Committee.<sup>5</sup> Despite the objections of the Progressive Congregation nothing further materialised, however, in this respect.

The Council continued to co-operate as closely as possible with the organised Jewish communities and with the isolated groups of Jewish families living in the Province. The Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid communities were particularly closely associated with the Council of Natal Jewry, which sought, where possible, to render

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<sup>4</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.7.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held on Thursday, 15th June, 1958, at the Durban Jewish Club, at 8 pm., p.6.

assistance in the cultural, spiritual and financial spheres. Not only were representatives of these two communities invited to attend all meetings of the Executive Council, the Jewish Education Council and other sub-committees in which they were interested, but minutes of these meetings were regularly sent to Vryheid and Pietermaritzburg to keep them abreast of developments which took place at meetings at which their representatives were not able to be present.<sup>6</sup>

Members of the Education Council took particular pleasure in the emergence and subsequent development in this period, of an organised Jewish community along the Natal lower South Coast. Beginning in 1956, with the organisation of a communal *Seder*, at the home of Mr and Mrs I. Aron, the Natal South Coast Jewish Centre, embracing the Jewish families of Margate and Port Shepstone, was formed under the chairmanship of Dr S.M. Feinberg.<sup>7</sup> Progress was initially slow but sure and by 1957, the Centre was served by a Religious and Hebrew teacher in the person of Mr J. Frumkin.<sup>8</sup> He not only instructed the children, but in 1959, conducted High Holy Day Services in Margate for a fervent and

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<sup>6</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>7</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 31.

<sup>8</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 27.

enthusiastic Congregation.<sup>9</sup>

With the community's growth increasing interest came to be taken in its further development by the Council of Natal Jewry. In June 1960, Mr I.J. Greenberg, the Council's President, accompanied by Mr R.N. Leon, Chairman of the Public Relations Committee, and Mr D. Spector, the Council's Secretary, visited Margate to discuss ways and means of assisting the Lower South Coast Jewish community to become a properly constituted and self-sufficient Hebrew Congregation.<sup>10</sup> On several occasions thereafter the C.N.J. and the Jewish Education Council sent delegations to consult with, advise, and guide the Lower South Coast Jewish community which was promised financial assistance, once it had formed a constituted Congregation.<sup>11</sup>

By September 1961, the Lower South Coast Hebrew Congregation was properly constituted and had an initial membership roll of approximately eleven families.<sup>12</sup> Its teacher and religious officiant, Mr J. Frankin, who had formerly travelled from Durban to carry out his

<sup>9</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 29.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 28.

<sup>11</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>12</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 7th September, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

duties, settled permanently in Margate, his salary being subsidised by the C.N.J.<sup>13</sup> Mr Frumkin thereby strengthened Congregational life through the introduction of regular religious services and daily Hebrew classes for children as well as adults.<sup>14</sup>

Contact with the country communities was also maintained through pastoral tours made by Rabbi Dr A. T. Shrock, of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, who visited Zululand, Central, Northern and Southern Natal,<sup>15</sup> and Rabbi Marfield, the Country Communities Rabbi of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.<sup>16</sup> Delegations from the Council of Natal Jewry and Jewish Education Council also visited these areas,<sup>17</sup> and regular tours of inspection of the Hebrew Schools in Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid were undertaken by Mr S. Ernst, the Education Council's Cultural Officer

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> *Hashalom*, XL No.4 (December, 1961), 48., *Ibid.*, [XL No.6] (February, 1962), 50.

<sup>15</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 25., *The Zionist Record*, September 20, 1957, p.10., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 33., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1959), 63., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 64.

<sup>16</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.10.

<sup>17</sup> The South African Jewish Board of Deputies Report of the Executive Council for the period March, 1958 to August, 1960. To be submitted to the Twenty Second Congress, in Johannesburg, September 1st to 5th, 1960, p.73.

and the Natal Regional Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education.<sup>18</sup>

Further links were maintained with the country communities of Natal through the Provincial Conferences of Natal Jewry which, after a break of some years, were re-introduced in 1958, when such a Conference was held in Vryheid.<sup>19</sup> The Provincial Conference that was scheduled to take place in Pietermaritzburg in June 1959, was cancelled at the eleventh hour, as the date chosen proved unguitable to most country communities.<sup>20</sup> It was only in the following year that a Provincial Conference could once again be arranged in Vryheid<sup>21</sup> and the year

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<sup>18</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.9. Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.9. Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.9. Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.11. Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>19</sup> *Sashalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 39.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 33.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 31.



after that a successful Conference was held in Pietermaritzburg.<sup>22</sup>

In order to keep the country communities informed of activities in the Jewish communal life of Natal, the Council of Natal Jewry continued to make provision for the receipt by all members of the country communities of the journals *Hashalom* and the *Zionist Digest*.<sup>23</sup>

For the benefit of the children in the scattered country areas of Natal, who were not served by a teacher or minister of religion, the Jewish Education Council continued to distribute correspondence lessons in Jewish history, laws and customs, which were very well received.<sup>24</sup> At the same time it continued to subsidise the Hebrew classes which were held at Margate, Highbury School,

<sup>22</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>23</sup> The South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Report of the Executive Council for the period March, 1958 to August, 1960. To be submitted to the Twenty Second Congress, in Johannesburg, September 1st to 5th, 1960, p.73.

<sup>24</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.9 (June, 1956), 29., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 27., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.9., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 63., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.11.

Escombe and Westville.<sup>25</sup> Dwindling numbers caused the Education Council to discontinue the Hebrew classes at Highbury, in August 1960, and at Westville from 1961, but the classes at Escombe were maintained.<sup>26</sup>

Notwithstanding the efforts made by the Education Council, the Council's relationship with the country communities was not as close or as cordial as desired. Efforts to involve the communities in the affairs of the Council remained in consequence of distance, not entirely satisfactory and relations between the Council of Natal Jewry and the countries communities were consequently sometimes strained.<sup>27</sup> The apparent disinterest of the country communities in matters of consequence to the Jews of Natal, as reflected in the cancellation of the Provincial Conference of 1959,<sup>28</sup> and the extremely poor

<sup>25</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 27., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.9., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 63., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1960, at 8 pm., p.10.

<sup>26</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 29th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.11.

<sup>27</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>28</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 33.

attendance of country delegates at the Provincial Conference in Vryheid in 1960,<sup>29</sup> both saddened and angered the members of the Council of Natal Jewry. At the same time, however, the Council, whilst discouraged by the response of the country communities, had the honesty to admit that it had not always maintained such close relations with its country communities as was desirable or possible. Nor for that matter, had the Council of Natal Jewry always explored all the avenues available for the purpose of bringing the country communities into the direct orbit of the vigorous Jewish communal life which existed in Natal.<sup>30</sup> The problem of the country communities had no easy or clear cut solutions and the Council of Natal Jewry, for all its shortcomings in the matter, nevertheless, through the Education Council as well as through its own activities can be seen to have made a sincere effort to maintain some type of link with all the Jews of the Province.

The important work performed by the Public Relations Committee of the Board of Deputies was complemented in Natal by that of the C.N.J.'s Public Relations Committee. In all matters related to public relations the Council of Natal Jewry kept in close touch with the Board and its work followed closely on the lines of the Board's Public Relations Committee. It continued to work to combat

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<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 31.

<sup>30</sup> *Havhalom*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 27.

anti-Semitic propaganda and manifestations of anti-Jewish prejudice and discrimination, whilst at the same time it tried to promote better understanding between Jews and their Gentile neighbours. In performing their work the Public Relations Committees of the Board and the Council never took sides in political issues, their interest in political affairs being determined solely by the effect of such issues on the Jewish community.<sup>31</sup>

Without deviating from its policy in respect of political affairs the Board of Deputies, at its Congress in 1958, did adopt a resolution which called on every Jew to play his part in furthering inter-racial and inter-group goodwill and harmony. This resolution was motivated by the belief that it was of overriding importance in the national interest that the racial policies of the country should be based on principles of tolerance, justice and respect for the fundamental human rights of all inhabitants.<sup>32</sup> In this generalised way the Board sought to avoid direct political involvement, whilst at the same time giving expression to the Jewish moral conscience of the community which it represented.

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<sup>31</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., pp.5-6.

<sup>32</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.4.

Although manifestations of overt anti-Semitism were rare in this period a constant flow of anti-Semitic pamphlets of foreign and local origin continued to be disseminated, and this was closely monitored by the Public Relations Committee in Durban, and by the Board of Deputies.<sup>33</sup> During 1960, however, there was a recrudescence of anti-Semitism world-wide. In Durban there were isolated incidents of Swastika daubing, offensive anti-Semitic leaflets were posted up on public buildings, and anonymous and abusive telephone calls were made to a few members of the Jewish community. Working in close collaboration with the Board of Deputies the C.N.J.'s Public Relations Committee took appropriate steps to limit this anti-Semitic outburst<sup>34</sup> and throughout 1961, it kept a careful check for further manifestations of this anti-Semitic trend.<sup>35</sup>

In view of this outburst of universal anti-Jewish agitation the Public Relations Committee of the Council

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<sup>33</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.6., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>34</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>35</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.8.

of Natal Jewry felt that the Jewish community, and more especially the youth, should be provided with the necessary background information. To this end it arranged a series of lectures on the subject of the "Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism." Mr A. Levine gave a talk on "Anti-Semitism and the Nazi Scourge," Mr J.J. Friedman presented an exposé of "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion" and Rabbi Dr B. Brasch, of Australia, spoke on "Modern Anti-Semitism."<sup>36</sup>

In pursuance of the positive aspect of its work, namely that of interpreting the Jew to the non-Jew and of bringing about greater social contact between the Jew and his Gentile neighbour, the Public Relations Committee continued to circulate informative brochures which were published by the Board. In 1956, a new pamphlet by Rabbi Dr S. Rappaport entitled *The Way of Good Men*, which dealt with the ethical teachings of Judaism, was widely distributed by the Council of Natal Jewry.<sup>37</sup> When, in 1957, the Department of Education, Arts and Science, which sponsored the publication of the quarterly magazine, *Lantern*, devoted the whole of one issue to the land and people of the Bible, the Board of Deputies and the South African Zionist Federation took up several hundred copies for distribution amongst the non-Jewish

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<sup>36</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 39-40.

<sup>37</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.6.

community. Some 200 of these copies were sent out by the Council of Natal Jewry to public figures in Natal.<sup>38</sup> Similarly in May 1960, when the Board of Deputies published a special edition of *Jewish Affairs* to mark the 50th anniversary of the Union of South Africa, which demonstrated the contribution made by South African Jewry to the country's development, the Public Relations Committee distributed 1,500 copies of this issue to Jews and Gentiles in Natal.<sup>39</sup>

The Public Relations Committee gave its full encouragement to efforts to maintain the harmonious relationship which existed between the Jewish community and the Provincial and Civic authorities in Natal. It therefore fully supported the Jewish Club which annually hosted a luncheon in honour of the Mayor and Mayoress of Durban<sup>40</sup> and which held similar functions to mark the resignation of the Hon. Mr D.G. Shepstone as Administrator of Natal,<sup>41</sup> and the appointment of

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<sup>38</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th 1957, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>39</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.8.

<sup>40</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 13., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 9., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 13., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 15., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 8., *Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 8.

<sup>41</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, January 30, 1958, p.4.

Mr A.E. Trollip as his successor.<sup>42</sup> It also gave encouragement to the public relations work carried out by the Rabbis of the community and by their respective Congregations, as well as by the Union of Jewish Women and the Sisterhood of Temple David.<sup>43</sup>

Although manifestations of anti-Semitism continued to distract the Public Relations Committee from its positive task of promoting goodwill and understanding between the Jewish community and its neighbours, there is evidence in this period of greater understanding of the Jewish people amongst the wider community and scant active support amongst the Gentile population for anti-Semitic agitation.

Just as on the national scene the United Communal Fund was conducted by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, so, in Natal, the Board's Provincial Committee, the C.N.J. organised and administered the Fund's campaigns in Natal.

Efforts in respect of the 1955/57 United Communal Fund campaign were suspended a short while after the Fund's launching, in October 1955, in consequence of the emergency in Israel, brought about by the threat of war, and the halting of all local fundraising in favour of an

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<sup>42</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 13.

<sup>43</sup>Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, to be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.8.



emergency appeal for Israel.<sup>44</sup> Once the campaign on behalf of the emergency appeal had been concluded the U.C.F. resumed its drive on March 1, 1957.<sup>45</sup>

As had become customary in Durban the Council of Natal Jewry, in an effort to avoid a multiplicity of campaigns, had added the target of the Durban Jewish Community Chest to that which Natal was required to contribute to the U.C.F. Headquarters.<sup>46</sup> Owing to the increase in the needs of the local educational institutions the target for the combined U.C.F.-Community Chest Drive for the 1955/1957 period had been raised from £42,000 to £50,000. Of this amount the actual U.C.F. target remained fixed at £32,000 whilst the target for the Durban Jewish Community Chest was raised from £10,000 to £18,000.<sup>47</sup>

In spite of every effort by the Chairman of the U.C.F., Mr Jack Greene, and his Committee, the Campaign was not able, upon its resumption, to recover its initial impetus, and the considerably increased target of the

<sup>44</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>45</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.5 (February, 1956), 30.

<sup>46</sup> The South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Report of the Executive Council for the period September, 1955 to August, 1960. To be submitted to the Twenty First Congress, in Johannesburg, March 13th to 16th, 1958, p.66.

<sup>47</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 61.

1955/1957 U.C.F. Campaign was not reached. This unfortunate situation was ascribed not so much to a lack of available funds, but rather an acute shortage of workers.<sup>48</sup> This was the first time in the history of Natal that the target of the combined U.C.F. and Community Chest Drive had not been reached and both bodies, accordingly, had their allocations reduced pro rata.<sup>49</sup> In the distribution of funds to the participating bodies of the Natal United Communal Fund, the C.N.J. received £8,000 as against £10,000 in the previous campaign, the Jewish Education Council received £1,500 as against £2,000 in the previous campaign, and the Country Communities received £3,200 as against £4,000 in the previous campaign. At the same time the Council reduced the Province's allocation to the U.C.F. Headquarters from £32,000 to £25,600. Most seriously affected by the shortfall in the Campaign's target were the beneficiaries of the Community Chest, and the educational institutions in particular. To help them offset the reduction in their allocation a *Kol Nidrei* Appeal was held in the Synagogues for the benefit of the Durban United Hebrew Schools and in the Temple for the

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<sup>48</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 29.

<sup>49</sup> The South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Report of the Executive Council for the period September, 1955 to August, 1960. To be submitted to the Twenty First Congress in Johannesburg, March 13th to 16th, 1958, p.66.

Temple David Hebrew Schools.<sup>50</sup>

With renewed determination preparations were made for the 1957/59 U.C.F. Stabilizing Campaign,<sup>51</sup> which was launched at a mass meeting on August 28, 1957, by the eminent British Rabbi and educationalist, Rabbi Kopul Rosen.<sup>52</sup> During his brief visit to the City the Rabbi took time off to address several meetings of canvassers and to launch the Women's U.C.F. Campaign. In his various addresses he succeeded in galvanising the community into a record effort for the United Communal Fund.<sup>53</sup>

On his tour of the major centres of South Africa Rabbi Rosen was accompanied by Mr Max Greenstein, the Hon. Treasurer of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, and the U.C.F. Both men were struck by the fact that in Durban younger people were being brought into direct participation in communal work, as was evident from the composition of the U.C.F. Committee, which was led by Mr Bennie Shotland.<sup>54</sup> The Campaign Chairman and his co-workers strove tirelessly on behalf of the Campaign, carrying its message to all Jewish

<sup>50</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Communal Offices, 72 Berea Road, on Thursday, 11th July, 1957, at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>51</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 23.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 15 and 17.

<sup>53</sup> *The Zionist Record*, September 13, 1957, p.8.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

communities in the Province.<sup>55</sup> Notwithstanding their efforts, however, the campaign target was not attained. The amount of £44,000 that was collected,<sup>56</sup> although insufficient to provide the full requirements of the Fund's participants, nevertheless, still exceeded all previous campaigns.<sup>57</sup>

Before the commencement of the 6th Campaign of the U.C.F., in September, 1959, the Council of Natal Jewry requested the Board of Deputies to review the rights of the participating organisations to remain as beneficiaries of the Fund, and to investigate the budgets of such organisations. The C.N.J. felt that there had to be a more realistic approach to the U.C.F. and that a proper target had to be worked out for the various centres of the Union, and that such centres had to accept their obligations to the Fund.<sup>58</sup>

At the same time the Campaign Committee, led by Mr H. Zulman, calculated that the internal financial needs of Natal Jewry were just over half of the support

<sup>55</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 25.,  
*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 29 and 31.

<sup>56</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>57</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 54.

<sup>58</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3.

expected for Israel. Accordingly, it recommended that a U.C.F. contribution should be at least 55% of an Israeli United Appeal contribution, or, in other words, should be based on £55 being contributed to the U.C.F. for every £100 contributed to the I.U.A.<sup>59</sup>

The 1959/61 U.C.F. Campaign was launched at the Jewish Club on October 6, 1959, at a reception at which the guest speakers were the Chief Rabbi Prof. L.I. Rabinowitz, the National President of the U.C.F., and Mr E.J. Horwitz, Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation.<sup>60</sup> Durban gave the Fund its unqualified support and by the end of the year not only had three quarters of the potential contributors been canvassed, but there had been a 25% increase in contributions.<sup>61</sup> Early the following year the Campaign was extended to the country areas where it was equally well received.<sup>62</sup>

The Campaign in Natal raised a record figure, an achievement ascribed in great measure to Mr Zulman and his Committee. They had enlisted a large untiring band of voluntary workers who had successfully completed their approaches to contributions as soon as possible,

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<sup>59</sup>*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 33.

<sup>60</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 13.

<sup>61</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31.

<sup>62</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 28.

not waiting until the tempo of the Campaign had waned.<sup>63</sup> A very satisfying feature of the Campaign was that as many workers attended the last meeting as had attended the first.<sup>64</sup> Although the amount collected was the highest ever achieved it was still short of the increased target. Natal could, nevertheless, boast of having come closer to the target than perhaps any other part of the country.<sup>65</sup>

In 1961, the *barmitzvah* year of the U.C.F. the 7th 1961/63 Campaign was launched under the chairmanship of Mr J. Greene on September 5, at a reception in honour of the distinguished American writer and scholar Professor Sol Liptzin. A feature of the function was the presentation of certificates of merit to former chairmen of the U.C.F. Campaigns in Natal, all of whom continued to be actively engaged in U.C.F. and I.U.A. activities in the Province.<sup>66</sup> Unlike the other Provinces, where a separate Women's U.C.F. Campaign was conducted by the Union of Jewish Women, in Natal, the women, through the Union, assisted the main campaign and

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<sup>63</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>65</sup> The South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Report of the Executive Council for the period March, 1958 to August, 1960. To be submitted to the Twenty Second Congress in Johannesburg, September 1st to 5th, 1960, p.73.

<sup>66</sup> *Haskalom*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 18-20, 46.

no separate campaign was held.<sup>67</sup> In spite of all the efforts of the Chairman and his committee the results were not as successful as the previous campaign and there had to be a restriction in the allocations to the beneficiaries.<sup>68</sup>

Outside of national Jewish affairs and within its own community the C.N.J. continued to fulfill an ever increasingly important role in communal life. Composed, as it was, of the leaders and representatives of almost every Jewish organisation in Natal it constituted a forum for discussion and decision making on every problem of importance to the community. All shades of thought and opinion were represented on the Council and full and frank discussions took place throughout the year.<sup>69</sup> The Council acted furthermore as a forum for arbitration in inter-organisational disputes such as those between the Reform and Orthodox Congregations,<sup>70</sup> and defiance of its authority by a member organisation, such as the United Zionist Revisionist Party, which held an unauthorised

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 39.

<sup>68</sup> The South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Report of the Executive Council for the period September, 1960 to August, 1962. To be submitted to the Twenty Third Congress in Johannesburg, August 30th to September 3rd, 1962, p.76.

<sup>69</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>70</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council, Held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th November, 1959, at 8 pm., pp.7-10.

campaign in 1957, met with severe censure.<sup>71</sup>

Notwithstanding the fact that no organisation was ever requested to become affiliated to the Council, and that membership was purely voluntary, there were only a few organisations in Natal that were not affiliated to the Council. All this resulted in the Jewish community of Natal being a well organised and well disciplined one.<sup>72</sup>

Extremely cordial relations were also maintained by the C.N.J. with the Zionist Council for Natal, whose chairman not only continued to be invited to all meetings of the Executive Committee,<sup>73</sup> but with whom a number of activities and functions were held under joint auspices.<sup>74</sup> Thus the two premier communal bodies continued to co-operate closely on matters of mutual concern to the benefit of the community as a whole.

Through receiving the full co-operation of Jewry in Natal, and by reason of this support, the Council's pre-eminent position was fully accepted by the whole community, on whose behalf it acted as a mouthpiece in

<sup>71</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.6. See below pp.1471-1473.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, p.3.

<sup>73</sup> *Haskalom Roeh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 60.

<sup>74</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 27., *The Natal Mercury*, April 4, 1957, p.10., *Ibid.*, May 9, 1957, p.10., *Haskalom*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 46.



respect of the Gentile and Jewish communities.

Within the wider community the Council gave expression to the Jewish community's deep regret at the passing of Durban's Mayoress, Mrs Grace Osborn, in June 1957.<sup>75</sup> It entertained the retiring Administrator of Natal, Mr D.G. Shepstone and Mrs Shepstone, at a luncheon given in their honour at the Jewish Club on January 29, 1958.<sup>76</sup> A similar function was arranged by the Council on July 31, 1958, to honour Mr A.E. Trollip, the new Administrator, and Mrs Trollip.<sup>77</sup> In his official capacity the Council's President continued the long established tradition of paying an annual courtesy call on the Mayor of Durban, and received invitations to a number of public functions, which were attended by him or his representative.<sup>78</sup>

The Council's President also received invitations to attend the annual general meetings and important functions of all its affiliated organisations, and in most instances he was present personally in order to

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<sup>75</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 28.

<sup>76</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.6] (February, 1958), 29.

<sup>77</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.12] (August, 1958), 29.

<sup>78</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.9., *Hashalom*, [XL No.5] (January, 1962), 43.

bring greetings from the Council.<sup>79</sup> Within the Jewish community, which it served as the communal mouthpiece, the C.N.J. joined with the Durban United Hebrew Congregation in 1956, in holding a farewell banquet to Rabbi and Mrs Swift.<sup>80</sup> Together with the Zionist Council, the C.N.J. hosted a reception in September 1956, in honour of Mr I. Bavly, Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary,<sup>81</sup> and a public meeting addressed by Mr G. Doron, the Israeli Consul General on May 9, 1957.<sup>82</sup> It also joined with the Zionist Council and the Durban United Hebrew Congregation in presenting a Golden Book certificate to Mr and Mrs Moss Freed to mark their Golden Wedding anniversary, and in recognition of their services to South African Jewry in general and Durban Jewry in particular.<sup>83</sup> At the same time it sought to have the name of the late Mr F.C. Hollander, one of the community's most distinguished sons, suitably

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<sup>79</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.12., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.12.

<sup>80</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 22-23.

<sup>81</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 27.

<sup>82</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 9, 1957, p.10.

<sup>83</sup> *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 35.

commemorated by the City which he had served with such distinction.<sup>84</sup>

The Council's principal concern in regard to local Jewish affairs was to contribute to the advancement of the community. This it achieved through its own efforts and those of its sub-committees.

Among the matters to which the C.N.J. directed its attention was that of fundraising, an issue which in itself was of considerable concern in all Jewish communities and not just Durban alone. The C.N.J. had long championed the creation of the U.C.F. and when, at the 20th Congress of the Board of Deputies, the Fund had been brought into question the Natal delegation had pledged that whatever happened the Fund would continue in Natal.<sup>85</sup>

Like communities around the Union Durban, however, was faced with the problem of insufficient voluntary workers and at the Council's annual general meeting in 1956, the President, Dr B. Moshal, recommended that serious consideration be given to having a single unified campaign per year, embracing both the I.U.A. and the U.C.F.<sup>86</sup>

<sup>84</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 23.

<sup>85</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>86</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 25.

At the instigation of the Natal delegation to the Board of Deputies 21st Congress, in September 1960, a resolution was adopted calling on the Board and the South African Zionist Federation to discuss the creation of a co-ordinating body for the more efficient collection of funds necessary for Israel and South African local needs respectively, it being accepted that the I.U.A. and U.C.F. should retain their separate identities.<sup>87</sup> Notwithstanding the fact that reports from other Provinces showed that the amounts collected for national and overseas funds had suffered because of a lack of workers,<sup>88</sup> this suggestion was not followed up on a national scale and it was only in Natal that it received due consideration. Over a year after its proposal had been made to Congress Natal decided to give the lead to the country. The C.N.J. and the Zionist Council for Natal began to conduct joint investigations in order to determine the feasibility and desirability of establishing unified fund raising machinery which would operate in the interests of both the U.C.F. and the I.U.A.<sup>89</sup>

After considerable discussion, from which nothing

<sup>87</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanon Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 64.

<sup>88</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45., p.3.

<sup>89</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 29.

tangible resulted, it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance, pending the completion of the U.C.F. campaign which was then in progress, and at the conclusion thereof to arrange for representatives from the two organisations concerned to rediscuss the matter on the basis of the following terms of reference:

- a) To explore the possibility of conducting simultaneous campaigns for the I.U.A. and the U.C.F., and of setting up permanent unified machinery to conduct the canvass,
- b) To explore the possibility of conducting one campaign in Natal, embracing the I.U.A. and the U.C.F. and the Durban Jewish Community Chest,
- c) To examine the desirability and practicability of merging the staffs of the I.U.A. and U.C.F. during campaigns.<sup>90</sup>

A joint investigating committee of the C.N.J. and the Zionist Council for Natal was set up under the

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<sup>90</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.3-4.

convenership of Mr H. Zulman,<sup>91</sup> but for a variety of reasons principally technical, by the end of 1961 it had made no progress towards completing its task.<sup>92</sup>

The manner in which the C.N.J. had succeeded in successfully combining its campaign on behalf of the Durban Jewish Community Chest with that of the U.C.F., thereby obviating the need for a duplication of fundraising activity in respect of local and national causes, had highlighted the advantages that were to be accrued from uniting and streamlining communal fundraising machinery. In this period, as had been the case in previous years, this arrangement was maintained for purely practical purposes, but no part of the contributions to the U.C.F. that came from outside Durban, were applied to the needs of the Community Chest.

Chaired until 1957 Mr I.B. Shagam,<sup>93</sup> and thereafter

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<sup>91</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8pm., p.5.

<sup>92</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.11.

<sup>93</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.3.

by Mr I. Geshen,<sup>94</sup> and later by Mr H. Zulman,<sup>95</sup> the Chest steadily increased its target with each successive campaign in order to keep pace with the rapid growth and development of the community's local educational institutions.<sup>96</sup> Apart from the Durban United Hebrew Schools and the Temple David Hebrew Schools, which received a major portion of the Chest's budget, the Chest's other beneficiaries were the Durban Jewish Welfare Association, the *Meshulloschin* Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, the Jewish Education Council, the Witwatersrand Jewish Old Age Home, and Arcadia, the South African Jewish Orphanage.

Not only did the combined drive for the U.C.F. and the Community Chest prove to be enormously convenient from an administrative and practical point of view, but it also limited the number of occasions on which the members of the community were approached for funds. Outside of the Community Chest/U.C.F. and I.U.A. Campaigns no appeal for funds were officially conducted in Durban without the prior authority of the C.N.J. A measure of the influence wielded by the Council of Natal

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<sup>94</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>95</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>96</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.1.

Jewry lay in the fact that an unauthorised campaign for funds had scant chance of success amongst the tightly disciplined members of the Durban Jewish community.<sup>97</sup>

On occasions, however, extraordinary circumstances prompted the C.N.J. to bend its rule regarding minor collections and one such case was the limited drive which the Witwatersrand Jewish Old Age Home was allowed to conduct for its Building Fund in 1959.<sup>98</sup>

Most severely affected by the Council's ban on outside collections were the institutions in Israel whose *meshullochim* were advised in Johannesburg that Natal was closed territory to them. Through the *Meshullochim* Committee of the C.N.J. approximately £1,000 a year continued to be transmitted instead, via the South African *Meshullochim* Board of Control, to a number of Israeli institutions, namely the *Va'ad Hayeshivot*, the *Moshav Sakenim*, the Central Home *Esrat Nashim*, the Diskin Orphanage, the *Misgab Ladoch*, the *Beth Cholim Methnavim*, the *Batei Avot*, the General Aged Asylum, General Israel Orphanage and *Hitchadut Rabonim Pleitim* in Jerusalem, which had all formerly sent *meshullochim*

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<sup>97</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.8.

<sup>98</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.11.



to Durban.<sup>99</sup>

In 1960, the Council's policy in respect of *meskullochim* came in for strong criticism in a letter from the *Beth Din* in Johannesburg. In consequence of the letter the matter was again debated by the Council, which reaffirmed its previous decision.<sup>100</sup> The thinking of the Council was guided by the belief that the system whereby *meskullochim* collected funds was outmoded and wasteful, and that once travelling and living expenses for the *meskulloch* had been deducted, only a fraction of the money contributed reached the institution for which it had been intended.<sup>101</sup> The system evolved by the Council, whilst it was felt to be far more effective and a great deal less wasteful, failed, however, to recognise the religious imperative on Jews to support all deserving religious institutions. Neither did it take into account that many worthy organisations existed, apart from those amongst which the small sum of £1,000 had to be divided, and that these were equally meritable of financial assistance from those who chose to support them. Most important though, the ban on *meskullochim* not only prescribed limitations on the voluntary contributions of individuals within the community but

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<sup>99</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 2.

<sup>100</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st 1960, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>101</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 2.

denied these individuals the right to choose for themselves whether or not to contribute to deserving institutions, through the *meshullochim* who acted on their behalf.

In spite of the ban imposed by the C.N.J. on *meshullochim* collecting in Natal such collections still infrequently took place, and *meshullochim* visited Durban, Vryheid and other Jewish communities in Natal. Being unable to forcibly prevent such visits, the Council would circularise the community in Natal to explain its stand and, with considerable effectiveness, would urge it to abide by the Council's standpoint.<sup>102</sup>

Although clear cut, the Council's policy in respect of supporting institutions abroad was nevertheless still not entirely inflexible. When, in 1958, the *Meshullochim* Committee refused a request from Rabbi M. Miller to make an allocation of £100 to the Rabbi Leo Baeck School in Israel, on the grounds that the Committee did not support any schools in Israel and only made allocations to those institutions which had formerly sent *meshullochim* to Durban, it recommended that he solicit contributions to raise the necessary funds.<sup>103</sup> Similarly in June 1961,

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<sup>102</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>103</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held on Thursday, 15th June, 1958, at the Durban Jewish Club, at 8 pm., p.6.

when Dr Ha Cohen, Director of *Ozar Hatorah* Incorporated, in New York, visited Durban in the interests of his schools, which provided elementary and high school education to children from countries in the Middle East and North Africa, permission was granted for a private collection for the purpose of building two classrooms in the name of the Durban Jewish community.<sup>104</sup> Deviation from fixed policy was, however, only tolerated when it enjoyed official sanction and the Council's control of fundraising remained therefore as firm as ever.

The C.N.J.'s preoccupation with financial affairs was reflected further in its decision to set up a special *ad hoc* committee to investigate the finances of the Jewish institutions and organisations in Natal.<sup>105</sup> Constituent bodies submitted their balance sheets and enquiries were made concerning the amounts contributed by the community to local, national and overseas campaigns. From the information received the Council was then able to determine the community's capacity to meet the various calls made upon it and gauge its ability

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<sup>104</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.13.

<sup>105</sup> *Hashkolom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 27.

to respond for future campaigns.<sup>106</sup>

In planning for the community's future the C.N.J. found itself hampered in its work by the absence of statistical information concerning the Jewish community, without which no major expansionist schemes, from the point of view of Jewish education, facilities for youth, Jewish culture among adults etc. could be contemplated.<sup>107</sup> In 1958, the Council therefore sent every known Jewish family in Natal a comprehensive questionnaire, in an effort to obtain the necessary statistics. The response was extremely disappointing to the Council, in that only slightly more than a third of the questionnaires were completed.<sup>108</sup>

The detailed nature of the questionnaire, which included the exposure of one's general, communal and charitable activities, reading interests and indirectly even one's political leanings, was judged to be

<sup>106</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.4., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>107</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 27.

<sup>108</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.4.

unwarrantably meddlesome. This was the reason to which critics of the questionnaire ascribed its poor reception.<sup>109</sup> Its importance, however, was highlighted by the difficulties which the Synagogue/School Area Requirements Commission encountered in planning ahead for the community's spiritual and educational needs.<sup>110</sup>

With the information which the C.N.J. had been able to obtain, the Zionist Council for Natal, which also required statistical information, took over the task and obtained information relating to the number of persons in the community and the age groups into which they fell. The information thus obtained by the Council of Natal Jewry, in collaboration with the Zionist Council for Natal, thereby proved to be of considerable value.<sup>111</sup>

Although the C.N.J.'s initial efforts to obtain statistical information were not entirely successful, the same could not be said of the Council's work generally, for on the whole its efforts were usually crowned with success. This fact was borne out, for example, by the findings of a special sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Mr A. Levine, which, in 1960, prepared a comprehensive report on the implementation of

<sup>109</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 2-3.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 31., On the Commission, see above pp.1190-1192.

<sup>111</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.4.

the recommendations of the Youth Commission of Enquiry, which had been set up by the Council in 1951.<sup>112</sup> The report clearly indicated that most of the recommendations of the Commission had been implemented and that the Council had every good reason to be satisfied in this respect.<sup>113</sup>

The Council's preoccupation with the youth was manifested in the attention which it lavished on this section of the community. Its Standing Youth Sub-Committee continued to serve mainly as a platform from which youth organisations and interested adult bodies could deliver reports, discuss recommendations and endeavour to solve youth problems. The Sub-Committee followed the progress and activities of the Jewish youth groups that were represented on it with keen interest. These youth groups were not, however, responsible to, nor controlled by the Sub-Committee, which served mainly as a clearing house for the problems of the youth.<sup>114</sup>

During 1956, considerable attention was devoted by the Sub-Committee to the question of appointing a youth

<sup>112</sup> See above p.852.

<sup>113</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 29., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>114</sup> *Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 60.

leader for Natal.<sup>115</sup> After lengthy discussions the representatives of the Zionist Council, the C.N.J., the youth organisations and other interested bodies, agreed that the presence of a youth leader would not solve the problems facing the youth. It was felt, instead, that efforts should be made to consolidate the various youth organisations and that a youth committee, without any affiliation, should come into being to co-ordinate youth activities.<sup>116</sup>

A major achievement of the Standing Youth Sub-Committee was the publication of a *News Sheet* for the youth, which was edited and produced by the youth. Its first editor was Mr R. Golding, and its editorial board included representatives from the Youth Section of the Club, *Habonim*, Students' Jewish Association and the Natal Zionist Youth Executive.<sup>117</sup> The inaugural issue published in September 1956, included a section dealing with matters of interest to the youth, a review of several books, and reports of organisational activities, and was most favourably received.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>115</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.5., *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 27.

<sup>116</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Naon*, on Monday, 24th September, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>117</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 27.

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.3 (October, 1956), 21.

The close co-operation engendered by the *News Sheet* augured well for the creation of the Natal Jewish Youth Council, a body designed to co-ordinate and direct all youth matters, which was established under the guidance of Mr A. Levine, the Chairman of the Standing Youth Sub-Committee, in late 1956.<sup>119</sup> It initially consisted of representatives of the Students' Jewish Association, the Youth Section of the Jewish Club and *Habonim*,<sup>120</sup> to which were later added the Youth Forum of the Durban United Hebrew Schools, and the Youth Group of Temple David,<sup>121</sup> each of which nominated two representatives to the Council.<sup>122</sup>

Within a few weeks of its establishment the Youth Council held a highly successful *Chanukah* function on December 5, 1956, which was acclaimed both for its high quality and for the step which it represented towards

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<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 23.

<sup>120</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>121</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>122</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.5.



greater co-operation among the youth.<sup>123</sup> It also eventually assumed responsibility for the production of the monthly *News Sheet* and the organisation of a well received Leadership Course.<sup>124</sup>

In mid-1957, once the Jewish Youth Council had become firmly established, the C.N.J. acceded to the Youth Council's request that the Standing Youth Sub-Committee should be dissolved and its functions taken over by the Youth Council. Its decision was based on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Standing Youth Sub-Committee, who felt confident that the Youth Council was sufficiently competent to co-ordinate and supervise all youth work in Durban.<sup>125</sup>

The Youth Council maintained the closest liason with the Council of Natal Jewry, which was invited to appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Youth Council and, which, in turn, invited the Youth Council to become affiliated to the C.N.J.<sup>126</sup> Equally close links were forged with the Zionist Council for Natal, which was

<sup>123</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 3 and 17.

<sup>124</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4., *Haskolom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 29.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 27., Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, Pioneer Buildings, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 14th August, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.4.

<sup>126</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 27.

also accorded representation on the Youth Council.<sup>127</sup>  
 The Zionist Council and the C.N.J. were, together, the principal sources of the Youth Council's finances, the Zionist Council contributing £36 a year and the C.N.J. £72 per annum. The Youth conducted all their financial business themselves, through a building society account.<sup>128</sup>

Through its representation on the Jewish community's two major communal bodies, the Youth Council was included in the C.N.J.'s delegation to the 21st Congress of the Board of Deputies, in March 1958,<sup>129</sup> and was represented at the Natal Zionist Conference, the South African Zionist Youth Conference and the National Consultation of the Board of Deputies.<sup>130</sup> In 1959 it was also affiliated to the Zionist Youth Council.<sup>131</sup>

The growing activity of the Youth Council was

<sup>127</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>128</sup> Minutes of the 51st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 13th November, 1957, at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban at 5.15 pm., p.3.

<sup>129</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>130</sup> *Heshalon Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 41.

<sup>131</sup> Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Buildings, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 25th May, 1959, p.5.

reflected in its need to employ a part-time secretary, who performed the secretarial duties of the Council and its constituent bodies, and the opening of its own office at the *Maon*, which it rented from the Zionist Council.<sup>132</sup> The office also served as a reference library, where material for meetings and youth activities was made available to *madrishim* and youth leaders.<sup>133</sup>

In addition to co-ordinating and promoting youth activity in Natal, the Jewish Youth Council interested itself in the youth study courses in Israel and dealt with applications from all youth outside of *Habonim*.<sup>134</sup> It worked furthermore to establish a junior Jewish National Fund Committee in the City, which it was hoped would form the nucleus of a Young Israel Society for the 18-25 year old age group.<sup>135</sup>

Among the highlights of the Youth Council's activities were a sports function and pageant held on

<sup>132</sup> Minutes of the 67th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 7th May, 1958, at 5.15 pm., p.3.

<sup>133</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.6.

<sup>134</sup> Minutes of the 51st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 13th November, 1957, at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, at 5.15 pm., p.3.

<sup>135</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Buildings, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 18th November, 1957, at 8 pm., p.5.

April 27, 1958, at the Hoy Park Stadium to mark the 10th *Yom Haatzmaut*,<sup>136</sup> a *Chanukah* celebration held at the Jewish Club, on December 14, 1958,<sup>137</sup> and the First Conference of Natal Jewish youth, which took place over the weekend of the 21st-22nd February, 1959.<sup>138</sup>

Delegates from all youth organisations, as well from Pietermaritzburg, attended the Conference where they discussed the problems confronting the Jewish youth of Natal and heard addresses from Mr Monty Joffin, Chairman of the South African Zionist Youth Council; Mr Paul de Jong, Organising Secretary of the South African Zionist Youth Council; Mr Chaim Segal, Secretary of the Youth Department of the Board of Deputies; Mr Ronald Golding, National Organiser of the Students' Federation; and Mr Yechie Kladashai, the Johannesburg *Setar Shalioah*.<sup>139</sup>

The success of the Conference encouraged the Youth Council to hold a second conference in April 1960.<sup>140</sup> The agenda for this Conference included three commissions which dealt with constitution and finance, functions and activities of the Youth Council, and the

<sup>136</sup> *Heshalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 19.

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 45.

<sup>138</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 3, 1959, p.9.

<sup>139</sup> *Heshalom*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 33-34.

<sup>140</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on 21st March, 1960, at 8 pm., p.5.

inter-relationship of the youth organisations in Natal. During the plenary sessions papers were delivered on "The Position, Role and Future of Jews in South Africa," "The Effect of Israel on Jews throughout the World," and on anti-Semitism.<sup>141</sup> The effectiveness of the Conference could be gauged from the resolutions adopted, which bore witness to the fact that the Youth Council had a very real and active part to play in youth affairs, in promoting and co-ordinating youth activity. In this latter regard the Conference reaffirmed the growing need for a professional youth leader in Natal.<sup>142</sup>

After 1960 the Youth Council found it increasingly difficult to carry out a programme of activity, a situation which greatly disturbed the Council of Natal Jewry,<sup>143</sup> and after due consideration it decided to disband in December, 1961.<sup>144</sup> Following this development the C.N.J. convened a meeting to discuss the matter and agreed to appoint a Standing Youth Committee, consisting of Mr A. Miller, the chairman, Messrs. A. Levine, M. Benjamin, S. Ernst and the Rev. A. Weiss, whose main task was to be to give assistance and

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<sup>141</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 37.

<sup>142</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 40.

<sup>143</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 61.

<sup>144</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 8th February, 1962, at 8 pm., p.2.

encouragement to any youth organisation that required guidance.<sup>145</sup>

A major reason for the Youth Council's sudden decline in strength and popularity and its ultimate demise, lay in the weakness of its constituent members. By 1961, there were only two functioning youth bodies affiliated to it, namely the Youth Section of the Jewish Club and *Habonim*,<sup>146</sup> the Youth Forum, the Youth Section of Temple David and the University Students' Jewish Association all having ceased to function effectively. The Youth Council had, furthermore, been beset by conflicting loyalties, by widely differing outlooks, and by the inability of its members to envisage the wider interests of the community as a whole. Upon the Youth Council's demise, the adult section of the community acknowledged that in asking young people to assume singlehanded the task of co-ordinating and promoting activity among the Jewish youth of Durban, it had perhaps been asking too much.<sup>147</sup>

Although it closely monitored the progress and fortunes of the organised Jewish youth groups in the City, the C.N.J., in line with the policy of the Board of Deputies, lavished particular attention on the activities

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<sup>145</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 29th January, 1962, at 8 pm., p.1.

<sup>146</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 64.

<sup>147</sup> *Hashalom*, [XL No.6] (February, 1962), 2.

designed for unaffiliated youth, and more especially those attending university.

The C.N.J. had, therefore, welcomed the decision taken at the Congress of the Board of Deputies, in 1955, that the Board should set up its own Youth Department,<sup>148</sup> although on a national level, this step met with stiff opposition from the Zionist youth movements.<sup>149</sup> The Standing Youth Sub-Committee evinced considerable interest in the Board's decision and felt enormous disappointment over the Board's delay in implementing this decision, and in its inability to enlist the services of an American Hillel Director.<sup>150</sup> The efforts of the Board of Deputies to obtain the services of a Youth Director were watched with particular interest by the Council of Natal Jewry, insofar as it was hoped that when an appointment was made the incumbent would find it possible to visit Natal.<sup>151</sup> Enormous delight was therefore,

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<sup>148</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>149</sup> Gideon Shimoni, *Jews and Zionism: The South African Experience 1910-1987*, (Cape Town, 1980), pp.264-265.

<sup>150</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>151</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.7.

taken in the Board's appointment in 1958, of Mr Chaim Segal as Secretary/Organiser of the Youth Department, especially as he had formerly lived in Durban, and was therefore familiar with local conditions.<sup>152</sup>

The sad state of the Students' Jewish Association on the campus of Natal University in Durban, which resulted from inadequate support, the lack of suitable committee personnel and an unattractive programme,<sup>153</sup> provided clear evidence of the need for professional guidance, similar to that given by Rabbi Milgrom in 1953, when he had inspired its inception.<sup>154</sup> The Board of Deputies, mindful of the problem in respect of Jewish university students, both in Natal and elsewhere, therefore embarked on a specific student programme.

In 1959, the Board sponsored the temporary engagement of Leo Schwarz, from the United States, as a university student counsellor. His most outstanding achievements included the establishment of Jewish student centres, known as Hillel Houses, at the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Cape Town and Grahamstown, and the stimulation of nation wide Jewish student activity.<sup>155</sup>

Mr Schwarz paid only one brief visit to Durban, during April 1959, and his only public appearance was at

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<sup>152</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.10] (June, 1958), 31.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 19.

<sup>154</sup> See above p.859.

<sup>155</sup> Gideon Shimoni, pp.266-267.



the annual general meeting of the C.N.J., when he addressed the meeting.<sup>156</sup> Mr Schwarz's call was for a reevaluation of existing attitudes and programmes to meet the crisis in Jewish life brought about by the inability of the parents to transmit Jewish knowledge and ideals to their children, as was evident from the attitudes of the country's Jewish university students.<sup>157</sup> His address had a profound effect on his audience, which was borne out by the positive response of the C.N.J. and the Jewish community of Durban generally.<sup>158</sup>

In July 1959, Durban was the venue for the largest ever Jewish Student Conference, and the C.N.J. assisted with all the necessary arrangements for the Conference.<sup>159</sup> The Conference served to highlight the differences between the Board of Deputies and the South African Zionist Conference regarding their respective roles in the student field. Concurrently with the Board's engagement of Mr Schwarz, the Zionist Federation had engaged the services of Mr Shmuel Almog from Israel for very much the same purpose. Although jointly the Board and the Federation subsidised the budget of the South African Federation of Students' Jewish and Zionist Associations, they both accepted fully the autonomy of

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<sup>156</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 31.

<sup>157</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 17, 1959, p.15.

<sup>158</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 3 and 5.

<sup>159</sup> *The Zionist Record*, July 31, 1959, p.17.

the students in regard to policy and planning.

Disagreement existed, however, over the Board's desire to see the integrated student programme maintained by a unitary administrative system, and other related matters.<sup>160</sup>

In order to provide a wider programme of facilities and services to the Jewish students, Mr Schwarz made his headquarters in Johannesburg and Mr Almog agreed to use Cape Town as his home office.<sup>161</sup> Although much of the controversy dissipated with the departure of both student counsellors, differences between the Board of Deputies and the Zionist Federation over student matters continued to exist.<sup>162</sup>

Inspired by Mr Schwarz's rhetoric the C.N.J., together with the Board of Deputies, and the Union of Jewish Women, made a considerable financial grant to the Summer School of Jewish Studies for University students and graduates, which took place at the University of Stellenbosch from January 10th-31st, 1960.<sup>163</sup> The programme proved to be a tremendous success and the Durban Jewish community took pride in having been largely instrumental in bringing it about.<sup>164</sup>

Mr Schwarz's visit to Durban also had the effect of stimulating a resurgence of interest within the C.N.J. in

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>161</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 33 and 35.

<sup>162</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.267.

<sup>163</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1960), 29.

<sup>164</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVIII No.6 (February, 1960), 2.

the local Students' Jewish Association. Following a suggestion made by Mr Schwarz, the C.N.J. approached Mr Israel Leeman, a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Natal, Durban, to undertake *pro tem* the task of Honorary Student Advisor to the Students' Jewish Association at the Natal University in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, to which suggestion Mr Leeman readily agreed.<sup>165</sup>

Apathy and inactivity continued, however, to plague the local branches of the Students' Jewish Associations. It was not until the visit to Durban of Mr L. Miller, the National Chairman of the South African Federation of Students' Jewish Associations, in March 1962,<sup>166</sup> that the Association on the Durban campus was revived and reactivated.<sup>167</sup>

A further manifestation of the C.N.J.'s concern for the youth of the community, and more especially for their educational advancement, was the Educational Trust, which had been established by the Council in 1952. Although for some years its limited funds forced it to remain

<sup>165</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 2nd June, 1960, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>166</sup> Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Executive of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Thursday, 13th March, 1962, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>167</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 78.

inoperative,<sup>168</sup> following a very generous donation of £500 from the estate of the late Mr Robert Shapiro, of Pretoria,<sup>169</sup> the Trust Fund was able to make its first award in 1957, in the form of a small educational grant to a young student.<sup>170</sup> In 1959, a further bursary was awarded out of the income earned on the funds of this Trust.<sup>171</sup> The Jewish community did not, however, share the Council's concern for the Trust and failed to give it the support which it merited, notwithstanding appeals which were made over the years. Consequently the Fund was unable to invite applications for bursaries which it knew would undoubtedly be forthcoming and had to content itself with granting two small educational grants, in

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<sup>168</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>169</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>170</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 61.

<sup>171</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.5.

1960 and 1961 respectively.<sup>172</sup>

Through the funds available to it from the Henry Denton South African Universities Trust, the C.N.J. was nevertheless able to support a number of worthy bursars, who qualified in terms of the Trust's conditions.<sup>173</sup> As, over the years, applications from those who required assistance for higher education increased in number, so the Council, restricted by the lack of funds available, regretfully had to limit the numbers of bursaries that it granted.<sup>174</sup>

To aid school leavers to determine a career for themselves the Council of Natal Jewry, in 1960, gave consideration to establishing a Vocational Guidance Committee of suitably qualified personnel who would be

<sup>172</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.7., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.9.

<sup>173</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 60., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 61., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 54., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 63-64., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 71., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 61.

<sup>174</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.4.

able to give professional guidance.<sup>175</sup> Although it did not make any significant progress in this regard the Council nevertheless had the machinery for an *ad hoc* committee to provide this assistance, if, and when, it was required.<sup>176</sup>

Yet another indication of the interest and concern which the C.N.J. showed in the youth of the community was the initiative which the Council, together with the Zionist Council for Natal, displayed, in 1958, in establishing a special fund to assist young members of the Jewish community to proceed to Israel to take certain study courses. The funds for this purpose were contributed by various local institutions, all of which stood to benefit in some way from this investment in the community's young leaders.<sup>177</sup> So generous was the response to this fund that the Council decided not to approach the various organisations in 1961, believing that when the need for funds again arose those organisations which had supported it would do so again.<sup>178</sup>

The C.N.J.'s interest in the youth community was

<sup>175</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 71.

<sup>176</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 61.

<sup>177</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 54.

<sup>178</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.9.

shared by the Jewish Educational Council which closely followed the affairs of the Youth Council and assisted in all its activities, as well as in those of its constituent bodies.<sup>179</sup> The Education Council's Cultural Officer, Mr S. Ernst, attended all meetings of the Youth Council and helped the youth to run two highly successful leadership courses in 1957<sup>180</sup> and 1958.<sup>181</sup>

The Education Council's involvement in youth matters stemmed in part from its role as the Natal Committee of the South African Board of Jewish Education. As such, in 1957, it welcomed the decision of the Durban United Hebrew Schools to extend the Jewish Day School to reach Standard 5 by 1961.<sup>182</sup> It also expressed considerable

<sup>179</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.8., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.9.

<sup>180</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>181</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.8.

<sup>182</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.11.

satisfaction when, in 1960, the C.N.J. approved the school authorities' scheme to approach the community for capital funds for the establishment of a Jewish high school.<sup>183</sup>

The scope of the Council's educational activities on behalf of the youth was widened with the introduction of a course of Hebrew as a subject for degree purposes at the University of Natal.<sup>184</sup> Tentative steps towards this goal had been taken in 1956, when Rabbi Miller had entered into communication with the Principal of Natal University, Dr E.G. Malherbe, and Professor R. Craig, of the Department of Divinity at Natal University in Pietermaritzburg, in connection with instituting a course in Jewish culture, its history and development, and Hebrew for beginners and advanced students. Professor Craig had subsequently drafted a memorandum on the subject which was submitted to the Principal of the University.<sup>185</sup>

This matter was then taken up by the Jewish Education Council, on whose behalf Professor I. Gordon, the Dean of the Medical Faculty, conducted negotiations

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>184</sup> *HashaLom*, [XXXVII No.5] (January, 1959), 3.

<sup>185</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 1st November, 1956, at 8 pm., pp.5-6.



with the university authorities.<sup>186</sup> As a result of the efforts of the Education Council, and its willingness to assume part of the financial obligations involved,<sup>187</sup> Hebrew was introduced at the University of Natal on an experimental basis at the beginning of 1959, with Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock as lecturer.<sup>188</sup> This experiment failed, however, and efforts made during 1960, and 1961 to revive the course met with no success.<sup>189</sup> It was only in 1963, that a Hebrew I class, organised under Professor Rooks and the Department of Divinity, and led by Mr S. Ernst, came to be restored to the syllabus of the Natal University.<sup>190</sup> Not until 1970, however, did a completely autonomous Department of Hebrew come into existence at the Durban campus of the Natal University.<sup>191</sup>

In respect of its role as a Provincial Committee of the South African Board of Jewish Education, the Education Council was represented by its Cultural Officer

<sup>186</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.6.

<sup>187</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.5] (January, 1959), 2.

<sup>188</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 3, 1959, p.8.

<sup>189</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.10.

<sup>190</sup> *The Daily News*, December 1, 1962, p.9.

<sup>191</sup> *Ibid.*, October 28, 1970, pp.1-2.

Mr S. Ernst and Dr N. Smith at the National Conferences held by the Board in Johannesburg,<sup>192</sup> and participated in round-table conferences with the Board's representatives.<sup>193</sup> In July 1958, Mr Ernst was also part of the official South African delegation that attended the World Congress of Hebrew Teachers and Educationalists which took place in Jerusalem.<sup>194</sup>

Apart from serving as the Natal Committee of the Board of Jewish Education, the Education Council also continued to act as the Communal Relations and Country Communities Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. In both these capacities it forged firm links with the Jewish youth of the Province who were resident outside Durban, as well as with their parents, and contributed in some way to their advancement as Jews.

The main task of the Education Council, however, was to promote Jewish adult education and in this capacity the Education Council continued to play a leading part in the cultural life of the Jewish community.

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<sup>192</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.9., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.10.

<sup>193</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No.11] (August, 1961), 39.

<sup>194</sup> Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the Executive Committee for the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 18th June, 1958, at 5.15 pm., at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.

In spite of a crowded communal calendar the People's College lectures continued to enjoy the wholehearted support of the Jewish public, who, on occasion, filled the lecture rooms to overflowing.<sup>195</sup> Arranged under the joint auspices of the Education Council and the Culture Section of the Jewish Club, and partly financed by the Zionist Council for Natal, the People's College lectures were delivered by popular local speakers, as well as by prominent visitors from around South Africa.<sup>196</sup>

The People's College series was supplemented by independent lectures that were held during the year, often in conjunction with the Club's Culture Section. Distinguished South African and foreign lecturers

<sup>195</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 61., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 67., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 54., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 63., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 71., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 61.

<sup>196</sup> The People's College lectures included a series on "Great Jewish Books," (*Hasholom*, XXXIV No.5 (February, 1956), 30., *Ibid.*, XXXIV No.8 (May, 1956), 15.) "Biblical Personalities," (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 23.) "Great Moments in Jewish History," (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 17, 19, 27), *Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 20-21.) "The World of the Talmud," (*Hasholom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (October, 1958), 13 and 15.) "Judaism Faces Modern Problems," (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1959), 35.) "From Emancipation to the Present Time," (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 40.) *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 17., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 14-15., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 8-9.) and "Jewish Life in the Twentieth Century," (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 39., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 43.).

addressed the community under the Education Council's auspices, foremost among them being Professor Salo Baron, the Professor of Jewish History, Literature and Institutions at Columbia University, New York, who visited Durban in 1958.<sup>197</sup>

From 1959, the Education Council discontinued arranging individual lectures, apart from People's College, principally because the City was visited by various Jewish personalities who addressed the community under the auspices of a number of other communal bodies.<sup>198</sup> Two visitors whose brief stay in Durban precluded them from speaking at public functions, but who nevertheless met with the Jewish Education Council were Professor Leon Roth, of the Universities of Manchester and Jerusalem and Professor Judah Goldin of Yale University in the United States. They came to South Africa to participate in the Summer School of Jewish Studies that was organised for university students and graduates in January 1960.<sup>199</sup> Under the Education Council's auspices a visit to Durban was arranged in 1961, for Professor Sol Liptzin, the Head of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages at City

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<sup>197</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February 27, 1958, p.12., *Hasholom*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 21 and 23.

<sup>198</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.8-9.

<sup>199</sup> *Ibid.*, p.11.

College of New York, who addressed the community on September 4 and 5 at the Jewish Club.<sup>200</sup>

Apart from the cultural activities that it sponsored directly, the Education Council encouraged and supported functions and activities arranged by other organisations and more particularly the Yiddish Culture Section of the Durban Jewish Club.<sup>201</sup> Although the Yiddish functions at the Club were nominally arranged jointly with the Education Council, they were, in fact, almost entirely the result of the devoted work of Mr F. Rogoff, the Yiddish Section's Chairman.<sup>202</sup> Mr Rogoff's devotion to the fostering of Yiddish Culture made him the natural choice for Durban's representative at the Conference of the Yiddish Cultural Federation which was held in Johannesburg in July, 1958.<sup>203</sup>

The Education Council took great interest too in the various Study Groups which were held in Durban. Its

<sup>200</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No.12] (August, 1961), 43.

<sup>201</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>202</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>203</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.7.

Education Officer, Mr Ernst, was responsible for maintaining various study groups in Jewish history and Biblical studies, and these were complimented by the study groups that were arranged by the Orthodox and Reform Congregations for the benefit of their members. <sup>204</sup>

A highlight of the Education Council's activities was an exhibition of paintings by 22 Israeli artists, which was sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Education in Israel, and was held in the Municipal Art Gallery in August 1957. Dr O. Ballin, the Chairman of a special sub-committee of the Education Council was responsible for the organisation of the exhibition, and

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<sup>204</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.8., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.8., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.9., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.11., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.8.

was assisted by Mrs A. Goldberg.<sup>205</sup>

Professor E.G. Malherbe, Principal of the University of Natal, opened the exhibition which, due to an official oversight, took place on the eve of *Tisha B'Av* and was therefore concluded early. Also present at the opening was Mrs I. Bavly, the wife of the Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary in South Africa.<sup>206</sup>

Another very successful activity that was arranged by the Jewish Education Council was a Book Week Exhibition, which was held in conjunction with the Library Committee of the Jewish Club, in April, 1959. It included book displays, lectures and a number of book revues by literary critics.<sup>207</sup>

On behalf of the C.N.J., the Education Council also continued to arrange the annual commemorative function on the Jewish Day of Remembrance for the victims of the Nazi Holocaust. These meetings, which generally included the kindling of *yahrzeit* candles, the intoning of memorial prayers and appropriate Psalms, and an address by a guest speaker, were by their very nature

<sup>205</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.9., *The Natal Mercury*, August 6, 1957, pp.2 and 9.

<sup>206</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive and Public Relations Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 1st August, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>207</sup> *Eshkolom*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 23.

generally well attended.<sup>208</sup>

The C.N.J.'s indirect involvement in the memorial meetings for the martyred Jews of Europe was only one expression of its desire to preserve the memory of the Holocaust victims. The C.N.J. not only publicised the plans to erect a suitable monument to the memory of the six million martyrs at the West Park Cemetery in Johannesburg<sup>209</sup> but gave its blessing and support to the efforts to raise funds for the International Monument, erected in Paris to the Unknown Jewish Martyr.<sup>210</sup> Following a visit to Durban in 1958 by the well known lecturer, Mr Benzion Shein,<sup>211</sup> a Natal Regional Committee for the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr was established, with the approval of the C.N.J. and the Jewish Education Council. Like committees in support of the Memorial which had been set up in America, Europe and in the larger centres of the Union the Durban Committee, under the Presidency of the Hon. Mr Justice Henochsberg, and the Chairmanship of Professor I. Gordon,<sup>212</sup> solicited financial and moral

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<sup>208</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 27-28., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 7., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 17., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 15-16., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 4-5., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 35.

<sup>209</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.6 (January, 1957), 25.

<sup>210</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 35.

<sup>211</sup> *The Zionist Record*, August 1, 1958, p.12.

<sup>212</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 35.



support for the Memorial, which included a museum, library, archives and crypt.<sup>213</sup> Apart from encouraging efforts to get Jewish families in Natal to contribute a sum of 10/- per annum towards the Monument's upkeep the C.N.J. made it an established practice for a box collection to be held at the annual memorial function, the proceeds of which were transferred to the Memorial in Paris.<sup>214</sup>

Through the Board of Deputies, of which the C.N.J. was the Provincial Committee, the Council was represented at the annual general meeting of the Directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, which took place annually in Europe or

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<sup>213</sup>*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 18., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 33., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 33.

<sup>214</sup>*Ibid.*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 45.

the United States.<sup>215</sup> At the same time the C.N.J. assisted members of the community to make restitution and compensation claims against the Federal Republic of Germany. Through the efforts of Dr H. Heymann, its honorary adviser in these matters and his successor, Mrs M. Hirsch, who was assisted by Mrs M. Feist, help was extended to applicants who wished to lodge claims,

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<sup>215</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.2., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.2., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.2., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.2., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.3.

or who required information or affidavits.<sup>216</sup> By 1961 the work in this direction was actually completed through correspondence carried on with the appropriate authorities in West Germany or behalf of local claimants.<sup>217</sup>

The Council's concern for survivors of the Nazi era extended to those who, through active service, had helped to bring about wartime Germany's demise. More than a decade after the end of World War II the Soldiers' Assistance Committee still received calls for grants and

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<sup>216</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.8., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th A 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.5., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>217</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

loans, which it made in all deserving cases.<sup>218</sup>

The principal aim of this Committee, which continued to be chaired by Mr L.S. Ditz, was to make good any sufferings or losses sustained by an ex-serviceman as a result of his military duties. With the passing of time this came, however, to be increasingly difficult to assess. Accordingly the Committee widened its scope to include aid to ex-volunteers who found themselves in distress, and particularly through no fault of their own, and who would otherwise have had to resort to normal welfare channels.<sup>219</sup>

Although during this period fluctuations in the number of calls made on the Soldiers' Assistance Committee led to consideration of its possible

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<sup>218</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.9., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.8.

<sup>219</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.9.

disbandment,<sup>220</sup> the Committee continued to function. Whereas in the past the Committee had acted on the basis that financial assistance should be in the nature of rehabilitation from 1961, however, it came to accept that this criterion could no longer apply. As there still existed an obligation to assist ex-servicemen who might otherwise have found themselves in difficulties it was agreed that the policy of the Committee should be changed, and that emergency grants or allowances to ex-servicemen would be considered on their merits.<sup>221</sup>

Within the scope of its work the C.N.J. extended assistance to other sections of the community as well. Apart from supporting the Durban Jewish Welfare Association monetarily, and thereby being indirectly associated with the work of the Association, the C.N.J. also maintained its own Welfare Committee. The Welfare Committee worked in close co-operation with the Jewish Welfare Association and thereby avoided duplication of its activities. It channeled its energies towards the

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<sup>220</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.5., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 21st April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>221</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.12.

placing of persons in employment, assisting in securing accommodation for people, advising on naturalisation, tracing missing relatives, supplying information and statistics about Jewish institutions in South Africa and other parts of the world,<sup>222</sup> and despatching parcels to Iron Curtain countries.<sup>223</sup> The work of this Sub-Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry thus complemented without in any way overlapping the work which was performed by the Jewish Welfare Association.

Jews from other communities who passed through Durban, generally *en route* to other countries, continued to receive assistance from the Council through the Immigration Sub-Committee, which was chaired by Mr N. Hertz. Although only a very small number of Jewish immigrants arrived in Durban in this period, those who did set foot in the City were assured of the utmost

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<sup>222</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.8.

<sup>223</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7.

courtesy and assistance from Mr Hertz and his committee.<sup>224</sup>

With the arrival in Durban, during 1960, of Jewish refugees from the former Belgian Congo the Immigration Committee joined with the Welfare Association in providing financial help to those in need.<sup>225</sup> The two bodies also joined with the Durban Jewish Club, the Union of Jewish Women and the Sisterhood of Temple David in forming a committee to extend practical assistance to the refugees.<sup>226</sup> During his visit to Durban in September 1960, in connection with the Belgian Congo refugees, Mr Moss A. Levitt, the Executive Vice-Chairman of the American Joint Distribution Committee, was suitably entertained by the C.N.J. Similar hospitality was shown by the Council towards Mr Martin Friedman of the United H.I.A.S. Organisation of America, who was also

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<sup>224</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.9., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.8., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>225</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.12] (August, 1960), 33.

<sup>226</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Communal Offices, on Thursday, 13th September, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.

interested in the Jewish refugees from the Congo.<sup>227</sup>

Largely inactive in all this time was the Legal Sub-Committee, chaired by Mr H. Levy,<sup>228</sup> which had been formed to extend legal assistance to the C.N.J. and its various sub-committees. The inactivity of this Sub-Committee greatly reflected on the efficiency and unhampered manner in which the C.N.J. conducted its affairs.

The only new sub-committee to emerge in this period was the Information Sub-Committee which developed in 1961, in response to a long felt need for publicising the work of the Council and the Board of Deputies. This Committee, under the chairmanship of Mr A. Levine, after

<sup>227</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., pp.11-12.

<sup>228</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 6th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.9., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 4th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.8., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.6., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.5., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 20th April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.3.



lengthy consultation, drafted a number of suggestions aimed at bringing the work of the Council to the notice of the community as a whole.<sup>229</sup> To the Council's regret the Executive Committee was unable, for practical reasons, to immediately implement these suggestions.<sup>230</sup>

The history of the Council of Natal Jewry from 1956-61, is not characterised by the development of numerous sub-committees nor by extraordinary activity. By this period such committees as were necessary for the effective running of the Council had already been formed, and the fact that the Council was able to run efficiently and to retain its central place in Jewish communal life in Durban testified to the effectiveness and all embracing nature of the existing committees. Reaching out into almost every aspect of communal life the C.N.J. was able to continue to carry out its many, and varied, functions for the benefit of Natal Jewry as a whole. Through the consultative and co-ordinational force which it wielded the Council ensured that Natal Jewry remained both disciplined and united, despite the diversity of its constituents, and a model of communal

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<sup>229</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 30th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Wednesday, 26th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>230</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.13.

organisation.

## CHAPTER XLVII

THE ZIONIST COUNCIL  
FOR NATAL : 1956 - 1961

Zionist activity, within the framework of the already well developed institutional infrastructure which had developed over the years for the different categories of Zionists within the community, continued unabated in Durban during this period, unchallenged by any anti-Zionist groups. Sensitive to prevailing circumstances in Israel and at home, the local Zionist groups revealed with considerable success their ability to respond and adapt to the challenges and pressures that faced the Zionist Movement.

Central to the effective running of Zionist affairs in Durban and Natal remained the Zionist Council, the Provincial arm of the South African Zionist Federation, and the overall co-ordinating body for Zionist activity in the City. As the mouthpiece of local Zionist groups it articulated the feelings and expressed the changing moods of its constituent bodies, whilst at the same time it managed the mundane affairs and paperwork with which any organisation has to deal.

With Israel the main focus of Zionist attention, matters relating to the State of Israel were a major preoccupation of the Zionist Council. Insofar as it embraced all shades of Zionist opinion and activity, in

Durban the Council was, therefore, the obvious channel for the community to use when seeking to be of moral or practical assistance to the Jewish National Homeland with which it so closely identified.

At the beginning of 1956, as the attention of world Jewry remained riveted on Israel, heightening tension made the prospect of war appear imminent. As the flood of arms to the Middle East swelled alarmingly<sup>1</sup> and the situation on the borders between Israel and her neighbours gradually worsened,<sup>2</sup> so the Zionist Council, in its capacity as the umbrella body of the Zionist Movement in Durban, organised a mass meeting of solidarity at the Durban Jewish Club, on March 18, 1956.<sup>3</sup> The meeting, which was addressed by Mr J. Daleski, the Vice-Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, formed part of a country-wide Enlightenment Drive organised by the Zionist Federation to inform the Jewish community of the situation in Israel.<sup>4</sup> It was

<sup>1</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, January 3, 1956, p.1.,  
January 18, 1956, p.1., January 20, 1956, p.1.

<sup>2</sup>Solomon Grayzel, *A History of the Jews from the Babylonian Exile to the Present 5728-1988* (New York, 1968), p.695. *The Natal Mercury*, January 18, 1956, p.1., March 3, 1956, p.1., March 5, 1956, p.1., March 6, 1956, p.2., March 7, 1956, p.1., March 13, 1956, p.9., March 14, 1956, p.1., March 15, 1956, p.2., March 16, 1956, p.13., March 17, 1956, p.1., March 19, 1956, p.9.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.*, March 14, 1956, p.8.

<sup>4</sup>Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 19th March, 1956, at 8 pm., p.1.

characterised by calls for maximum support for the beleaguered Jewish homeland,<sup>5</sup> and was concluded with a resolution, which expressed the admiration of Natal Jewry for the courage and fortitude of the people of Israel, and affirmed the solidarity of South African Jewry with the citizens of the State of Israel.<sup>6</sup>

The worsening situation in the Middle East<sup>7</sup> was greatly aggravated by Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal<sup>8</sup> and the international repercussions which resulted therefrom,<sup>9</sup> as well as by the blockade against shipping to and from Israel, through the Straits of Tiran.<sup>10</sup> The steadily deteriorating position reached a crisis

<sup>5</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 13, 1956, p.15.

<sup>6</sup> Minutes of the 57th Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 4th April, 1956, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>7</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, March 23, 1956, p.1., March 26, 1956, p.1., March 28, 1956, p.1., April 5, 1956, p.1., April 6, 1956, p.1., April 7, 1956, p.1., April 9, 1956, p.1., A April 11, 1956, p.1., April 12, 1956, p.1., April 13, 1956, p.1., April 23, 1956, p.11., April 25, 1956, p.9., May 2, 1956, p.3., May 10, 1956, p.1., May 11, 1956, p.1.

<sup>8</sup> David Thomson, *Europe Since Napoleon*, (London, 1972), p.868., *The Natal Mercury*, July 27, 1956, p.1.

<sup>9</sup> See Russell Braddon, *Suez: Splitting of a Nation*, (London, 1972) and *The Natal Mercury*, July 28, 1956, p.1., July 30, 1956, p.1., July 31, 1956, p.1., August 1, 1956, p.1., August 3, 1956, p.1., August 4, 1956, p.1., August 6, 1956, p.1., August 8, 1956, p.1., August 11, 1956, p.1., August 18, 1956, p.1., August 20, 1956, p.1., August 25, 1956, p.1., August 27, 1956, p.1.

<sup>10</sup> *The Zionist Record*, September 14, 1956, p.1.

point with the Israeli invasion of Egypt on October 29, 1956,<sup>11</sup> in what was claimed by Israel to be a drive to rid itself, once and for all, of the deadly recurring threat of Egyptian organised commando raids.<sup>12</sup> The entry of Anglo-French forces into the war, in an attempt to regain the Suez Canal,<sup>13</sup> had little direct bearing on Israel's great military victory which resulted in the swift capture of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula.<sup>14</sup>

The admiration of Durban Jewry went out to the fighting forces of Israel for the gallantry and bravery which they had shown, and great sympathy was also felt for the families of those who were bereft of their loved ones in consequence of the fighting.<sup>15</sup> It was with a sense of enormous pride, too, that the Jewish community of Durban learnt that one of its sons, Benzion Puterman, had served on the *I.N.S. Eilat*. On October 31 the *Eilat* captured the Egyptian destroyer *Ibrahim El-Awal* which was

<sup>11</sup>David Thompson, p.869., *The Natal Mercury*, October 30, 1956, p.1.

<sup>12</sup>Solomon Grayzel, pp.695-696., *The Natal Mercury*, October 31, 1956, p.2.

<sup>13</sup>David Thompson, p.869., *The Natal Mercury*, November 5, 1956, pp.1 and 9., November 6, 1956, p.1., November 7, 1956, p.1., November 8, 1956, p.1.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, November 3, 1956, p.1. On the Sinai Campaign see Howard Morley Sachar, *The Course of Modern Jewish History*, (New York, 1958), pp.561-565.

<sup>15</sup>*Haskolem*, XXXV No.4 (November, 1956), 2-3.

responsible for shelling Haifa.<sup>16</sup>

Upon receiving notification from the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem that a world-wide appeal for the inscription of the Israeli Army in the Golden Book was to be initiated, the Zionist Council for Natal sought to persuade the community to concretize its expressions of admiration through identification with this project.<sup>17</sup> The Durban Women's Zionist League took up this project with a great deal of enthusiasm and, as a result of its efforts, some 29 inscriptions were secured in addition to those obtained from the Durban Zionist Association, the *Mizrachi* Organisation, *Habonim*, the Friends of *Habonim*, the Union of Jewish Women, the Vryheid Zionist Society,<sup>18</sup> the Durban Jewish Club<sup>19</sup> and the Women's Zionist League itself.<sup>20</sup>

The diplomatic repercussions of the Sinai Campaign, and the combined action of the Anglo-French forces at

<sup>16</sup> *Hahalom*, [XXXIX No.7] (March, 1959), 13-14.

<sup>17</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th February, 1957, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>18</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th May, 1957, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>19</sup> *Hahalom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 16.

<sup>20</sup> *Hahalom Bosh Hahonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69.

Suez, were both heated and lengthy.<sup>21</sup> Bowing to international pressure the British and French Governments withdrew their troops from the area<sup>22</sup> and United Nations troops moved into a No-Mans Land along the Suez Canal.<sup>23</sup> Israel, however, steadfastly insisted on guarantees for its security before committing itself to total withdrawal.<sup>24</sup> Under pressure from the international community Israel withdrew from El Arish and Santa Caterina,<sup>25</sup> but refused to leave the Gulf of Aqaba until freedom was granted to her shipping.<sup>26</sup> Whilst Israel's intransigence on this matter was widely interpreted as stubbornness and pigheadedness the Jewish communities of the Diaspora came out full square behind her in her demands for adequate precautions for her future security.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> David Thomson, p.869., *The Natal Mercury*, November 9, 1956, p.1., November 10, 1956, p.1., November 15, 1956, p.1., November 19, 1956, p.1., November 20, 1956, p.1., November 4, 1956, p.1., November 22, 1956, p.1.

<sup>22</sup> David Thomson, p.869., *The Natal Mercury*, November 23, 1956, p.1., November 26, 1956, p.1., December 3, 1956, p.1.

<sup>23</sup> David Thomson p.869., *The Natal Mercury*, November 30, 1956, p.1., December 17, 1956, p.1.

<sup>24</sup> David Ben Gurion, "From the Founding of Petah-Tikva to the Present Day" in *The Jews in their Land*, David Ben Gurion (editor), (London, 1966), pp.356-357., *The Zionist Record*, January 4, 1957, p.1.

<sup>25</sup> David Ben Gurion, p.357., *The Natal Mercury*, January 16, 1957, p.1.

<sup>26</sup> David Ben Gurion, p.257., *The Natal Mercury*, January 24, 1957, p.2.

<sup>27</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.7 (February, 1957), 2-3.



At a special protest meeting, arranged under the auspices of the Zionist Council for Natal, on January 17, 1957, Durban Jewry gave expression to its support for the stand adopted by Ben Gurion's Government in the face of a world-wide policy of appeasement towards President Nasser.<sup>28</sup> The meeting also identified with international Jewish efforts to secure the protection of Egyptian Jewry on whom Nasser had sought to wreak vengeance for his country's resounding military defeat.<sup>29</sup>

Finally succumbing to international pressure Israel's Foreign Minister, Mrs Golda Meir, told the United Nations, in March 1957, that her country would withdraw from Sharem el Sheikh and the Gaza Strip, subject to certain United Nations guarantees. At the same time Israel reserved the right to use force to protect its right of free passage through the Gulf of Aqaba.<sup>30</sup> Egypt persisted, however, in asserting its right to bar Israeli ships from the waterway which linked the southern Israeli port of Eilat with the Indian Ocean.<sup>31</sup>

In May 1957, considerable excitement was aroused in

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<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 12-15.

<sup>29</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.1.

<sup>30</sup> David Ben Gurion, p.357., *The Natal Mercury*, March 2, 1957, p.1.

<sup>31</sup> Solomon Grayzel, p.696., *The Natal Mercury*, April 9, 1957, p.1.

Durban when the Israeli coaster *Atlit* arrived in the harbour en route for the Gulf of Aqaba, where she intended to break the Egyptian blockade. The ship drew much attention from members of the Jewish community of Durban, many of whom took crewmen ashore and extended hospitality towards them.<sup>32</sup> It was therefore with considerable relief and more than a passing interest that the news was received some weeks later of the *Atlit's* unhindered arrival in Eilat.<sup>33</sup>

The Middle East continued throughout this period to remain a focus of international attention as unrest in Jordan<sup>34</sup> and Syria<sup>35</sup> threatened the stability of the area, and the merger of Egypt and Syria into the United Arab Republic,<sup>36</sup> and Iraq and Jordan into an Arab Federal State<sup>37</sup> fueled Israel's sense of isolation and insecurity.

The concern which was displayed for Israel by Durban Jewry throughout the lengthy Suez affair hardly

<sup>32</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, May 13, 1957, p.4.

<sup>33</sup>*Haskolom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 2-3.

<sup>34</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, April 12, 1957, p.1., April 15, 1957, p.1., April 16, 1957, p.1., April 17, 1957, p.1., April 23, 1957, p.1., April 24, 1957, p.1., April 26, 1957, p.1., April 27, 1957, p.1.

<sup>35</sup>*Ibid.*, August 19, 1957, p.1., August 26, 1957, p.1., September 4, 1957, p.1., October 19, 1957, p.1., October 23, 1957, p.1.

<sup>36</sup>David Thomson, p.870., *The Natal Mercury*, February 6, 1958, p.4.

<sup>37</sup>*Ibid.*, February 15, 1958, p.9.

diminished once the crisis had passed, for Israel remained very prominently in the community's minds. All matters related to it were of concern to Diaspora Jewry and in Durban this interest and support continued to be directed through the Zionist Council.

The most concrete evidence of this support was reflected in the community's generous response to the biennial campaigns of the Israel United Appeal, which was co-ordinated in Natal by the Council's I.U.A. sub-committee and by the Council's staff.

The Emergency Campaign which had been launched in November 1955, under the chairmanship of Mr A. Beare, was completed early in 1956, with outstanding results.<sup>38</sup> Greatly encouraged by the success of this campaign, and the subsequent I.U.A. Campaign which was chaired by Dr N. Smith,<sup>39</sup> the I.U.A. Committee in Durban, chaired by Mr P. Patz, confidently launched its 1958/60 Campaign at a meeting on September 7, 1958, which was addressed by Dr Nahum Goldman, the President of the World Zionist Organisation and the World Jewish Congress.<sup>40</sup> The Campaign later received an additional impetus through the visit of Chief Rabbi Dr L.T. Rabinowitz, and was

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<sup>38</sup> Report of the Zionist Council for Natal. To be submitted at the Fifth Natal Provincial Zionist Conference, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club on 26/27th May, 1956, p.3.

<sup>39</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVII No.1 (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>40</sup> *The Zionist Record*, September 26, 1958, p.10., *Haskalom*, XXXVII No.2 (October, 1958), 19 and 21.

helped in its final stages by one of the Zionist Federation's field workers. Whilst it was a cause for satisfaction that Pietermaritzburg had improved on its previous effort, and that the number of contributors had increased in the Province as a whole, the campaign, though judged to have been a success, failed by a small margin to match the total contributions that were promised in the former campaign.<sup>41</sup>

In 1960, the I.U.A. Campaign was opened by Mr Moshe Sharett, who had succeeded Ben Gurion as Prime Minister of Israel, and had served from 1953-1955.<sup>42</sup> His launching of the campaign was followed by visits to the country centres by Dr Morton Berman, the Director of the *Keren Hayesod's* Department of English Speaking Countries, who addressed the Jewish residents of Danhauser, Vryheid, Ladysmith and Pietermaritzburg.<sup>43</sup> Mr S.J. Berkowitz, the Chairman of the local I.U.A. Committee and his canvassers had to work untiringly to bring the campaign, because of the prevailing economic conditions, to a successful conclusion.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>41</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVIII No.1 (September, 1959), 58.

<sup>42</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 21, 1960, p.4., *Hashalom*, XXXIX No.2 (October, 1960), 2-3.

<sup>43</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 23, 1960, p.5.

<sup>44</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XL No.1 (September, 1961), 70.

A proportion of the funds collected during the I.U.A. campaigns continued to be allocated to the South African Jewish Appeal, which, together with the Zionist Federation, was a joint sponsor of the I.U.A. Much of this money was channeled to Israel where it was spent in developing the scientifically planned garden city of Ashkelon, under the direction of Mr Selwyn Lurie of Durban.<sup>45</sup> This South African sponsored township was completed in 1958,<sup>46</sup> and all South African interests in it were handed over to the Israeli Government in December 1959.<sup>47</sup>

All the while the South African Jewish Appeal also continued to subsidise the World Ort Union, the World Union Ore, Rabbis and *yeshivot* in Israel, the *Alliance Israélite Universelle* Schools, the World Jewish Congress, the United H.I.A.S. Service, the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organisations, Jews' College London, Y.I.V.O., the Weiner Library London, *Beit Avodah* Tel Aviv, and the Tomb of the Unknown Martyr in Paris. To the foregoing were temporarily added the relief of thousands of Polish Jews who were repatriated from Russia, and the *Ozar Ha Torah*, an American body which supported 42 schools for Jewish children in Iran, 35 schools in Morocco and 5 schools in other Middle Eastern countries outside Israel.

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<sup>45</sup> *Hashkolon Kesh Eretz-Israel Annual*, XXXVI No. 1 (September, 1957), 56-58.

<sup>46</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, August 19, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid.*, December 19, 1959, p. 9.

The budget of the South African Jewish Appeal also covered the costs incurred in running the clothing depots in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban which packed second hand clothing for Israel, and the Migrant Committee which dealt with Jewish refugees in transit through the Union.<sup>48</sup>

Smaller amounts were also transmitted by the Appeal, through the Zionist Federation, to Israel, to help the State to meet unexpected financial crises such as the sudden arrival of large numbers of Jewish immigrants from Roumania, which in 1959, allowed its Jewish citizens to emigrate.<sup>49</sup> Numerous organisations held a lightning campaign on behalf of the Roumanian Refugee Fund and in just 48 hours one such organisation, the Sisterhood of Temple David, raised £394 10s 6d,<sup>50</sup> whilst a sum of £64 1s 0d was raised amongst the members of *Habonim*.<sup>51</sup>

This transfer to Israel of goods and gift funds raised by South African Jews was halted in December 1961,

<sup>48</sup> South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Report of the Executive Council for the Period March, 1958, to August, 1960, to be submitted to the Twenty Second Congress in Johannesburg. September 1st to 5th, 1960, p.5.

<sup>49</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 2., *The Natal Mercury*, March 17, 1959, p.11.

<sup>50</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 57.

<sup>51</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6.

after months of strained relations between Israel and South Africa, caused by the former's support for the anti-South African elements at the United Nations.<sup>52</sup>

The decision of the South African Government to demonstrate its anger with Israel by cutting off the flow of South African funds, confronted the Zionist Movement in South Africa with, what has been described as, "the most trying test of its traditional hold over the Jewish community...for it was the Israel United Appeal's fundraising which had become the predominant element of Zionist content in South Africa."<sup>53</sup> The leadership of the Zionist Federation was faced with the problem of having to find sufficient ideological resources with which to guide South African Jewry during this dilemma. At the same time considerable uncertainty also existed over whether Zionist sentiment was sufficiently basic to Jewish identity in South Africa to withstand the crisis.<sup>54</sup> Once it had become clear that the South African Government's decision in respect of fund transference was final, the community was informed of the position and urged to continue its Zionist work, notwithstanding the transfer difficulties.

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<sup>52</sup> For a full account of this development see Gideon Shimoni, *Jews and Zionism: The South African Experience 1910-1967*, (Cape Town, 1980), Chapter 10, "South Africa and Israel: Strained Relations." pp.305-326.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, p.319.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, pp.319-320.

and this it succeeded in doing with a considerable measure of success.<sup>55</sup>

The community's interest in Israel was greatly sustained by the frequent visits that were made to Durban by Israeli visitors. Some of those who paid visits to the City did so in the interests of organisations in Israel that were soliciting financial and moral support, but others were brought to South Africa to keep the Jewish community informed, to maintain its commitment to Israel, and to strengthen its Zionist sentiment.

Foremost amongst those whom, under the auspices of the Zionist Council for Natal, Durban Jewry had the privilege of entertaining and being addressed by were Brigadier Yigal Allon, a Member of the *Knesset* and the legendary liberator of the Negev, who visited the City in May, 1956,<sup>56</sup> Colonel Abraham Yoffee, the Commander of the heroic Ninth Brigade in the Sinai Campaign, who addressed the community on "Operation Sinai and After," on March 6, 1957,<sup>57</sup> and General Moshe Dayan, the Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defence Force and hero of the Sinai Campaign, whose visit, in September, 1957, excited

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<sup>55</sup> For a full account see Gideon Shimoni, Chapter II "Coping With the Crisis" pp.327-353.

<sup>56</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 25, 1956, pp.7 and 10., *The Natal Daily News*, May 26, 1956, p.3., *The Natal Mercury*, May 28, 1956, p.3.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*, March 4, 1957, p.10., *The Natal Daily News*, March 6, 1957, p.4., *The Natal Mercury*, March 7, 1957, p.2.



enormous attention and attracted a record crowd to the meeting which he addressed at the Jewish Club.<sup>58</sup>

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Opposition Leader also toured South Africa in 1957,<sup>59</sup> his visit having serious repercussions for South African Zionism insofar as it led to a split in the ranks of the Zionist Federation, and consequently in the Zionist Council as well.

By an agreement which had been entered into in 1953, between the *Keren Hayesod* and the *Herut Hatzohar* (World Union of Revisionists) the Revisionists had received a global allocation of funds, but had been prohibited from conducting their own campaigns in the Diaspora, except amongst their own members. The South African Revisionists, believing that the allocation granted by the World Zionist Organisation was inadequate, had continued to raise funds amongst their supporters, much to the chagrin of other groups on the Zionist Federation's Executive. At the 24th South African Zionist Conference in 1956, a resolution had, therefore, been adopted which, in the interest of unity, prohibited any separate campaigns by parties affiliated to the Federation. The Revisionists rejected this resolution

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<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*, September 2, 1957, p.6., September 5, 1957, p.1., *The Natal Daily News*, September 5, 1957, p.7., *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 17 and 19.

<sup>59</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, October 21, 1957, p.6., *The Natal Daily News*, October 21, 1957, p.4., *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 15.

as unconstitutional, on the grounds that it conflicted with the agreement which the Party had with the *Keren Hayesod*, whereby campaigns were permitted amongst the Party's own supporters.

In June 1956, the World Union of Revisionists failed to gain an increase in its global allocation and consequently decided not to renew its agreement with the *Keren Hayesod*. It therefore became vital for South African Revisionists, who constituted the Party's strongest branch in the world, to launch an extensive fund raising campaign, in connection with which Mr Begin was brought to South Africa.<sup>60</sup>

The news of Mr Begin's impending visit in connection with the Revisionist Party's proposed campaign caused considerable consternation in Zionist circles in South Africa. The Zionist Council for Natal, in line with the policy of the Zionist Federation, felt that in view of the decision taken at the Zionist Conference in respect of separate campaigns, the Revisionist Party should abide by the decision of the majority and accept the discipline of the Federation or face the consequences.<sup>61</sup> At a special meeting held in Johannesburg on May 25 and 26, 1957, it was agreed that the Revisionist Party be suspended from the Zionist

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<sup>60</sup>Gideon Shimoni, pp.246-247.

<sup>61</sup>Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maam, Pioneer Buildings, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th May, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4.

Federation with immediate effect. It was, furthermore, decided that expulsion would follow unless the Revisionist Party notified the Federation by July 31, of its intention to abandon the separate campaign. The reason why July 31, 1957, was given, was that a further meeting of the Action's Committee of the World Zionist Organisation was scheduled to be held in Jerusalem on that day, in an attempt to reach a global agreement.<sup>62</sup> The stand adopted by the Federation was supported by the Board of Deputies and the Board of Jewish Education, both of whom felt that a separate Revisionist campaign would be at the expense of their own fundraising.<sup>63</sup>

In the weeks leading up to the Actions Committee meeting in Jerusalem the Revisionist Party in Natal, in common with other branches around South Africa, made preparations for its proposed campaign.<sup>64</sup> At the same time, in its capacity as the Provincial wing of the Federation, the Zionist Council kept in close touch with Johannesburg, to whom it looked for ways to counter the Revisionist Campaign and to deal with the propaganda that was being widely disseminated by the

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<sup>62</sup> Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday 3rd June, 1957, at 5.15 pm., pp.1-2.

<sup>63</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.247.

<sup>64</sup> Minutes of the 36th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 12th June, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

Revisionists.<sup>65</sup>

With the failure of the World Zionist Organisation to agree to an increase in the Revisionists global allocation, an Extended Executive meeting of the Zionist Federation was held in Johannesburg for the purpose of taking a final decision regarding the Revisionist issue.<sup>66</sup> It was attended by Mr S.M. Berman, the Honorary Secretary of the Zionist Council, who returned to Durban with the news of the Revisionists' expulsion from the Zionist Federation,<sup>67</sup> which meant their expulsion from the Zionist Council as well.

In an effort to offset the Revisionist Party's campaign, and to counter the criticism of Israel and the Zionist Federation that was reported in the Party's newspaper, *The Jewish Herald*, the Federation organised a series of enlightenment meetings around South Africa. Such a meeting was held at the Durban Jewish Club on August 12, when Mrs Inez Gordon of Johannesburg

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<sup>65</sup> Minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 26th June, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>66</sup> Minutes of the 41st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 31st July, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>67</sup> Minutes of the 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 7th August, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

addressed the community on the Revisionist issue.<sup>68</sup>  
 The Zionist Council followed up this meeting with drawing room meetings, the free distribution of *The Zionist Record*, in which the Federation's standpoint was clearly outlined, and extensive publicity in the *Zionist Digest*.<sup>69</sup>

As the date of Mr Begin's arrival in Durban drew nearer so the Council's efforts to minimise the effects of his visit were intensified. Pamphlets issued by the Zionist Federation calling on the Jewish community not to support the separate campaign were distributed to members of the community, together with a letter from the C.N.J. which indicated its agreement with the Federation's stand.<sup>70</sup> A special meeting of all committees of Zionist bodies in Durban was also arranged to reassert the Federation's position and to clarify any doubts and misconceptions which arose from the

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<sup>68</sup> Minutes of the 43rd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 14th August, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>69</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th August, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.2-4.

<sup>70</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 16th September, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.1-2.

Federation's policy.<sup>71</sup>

Reports to the Zionist Council concerning Mr Begin's meeting in Durban, on October 21, 1957, suggested that there had not been a very good attendance nor a display of much enthusiasm.<sup>72</sup> A less biased account of the meeting described the audience as attentive, and the luncheon, held by the Jewish Club in Mr Begin's honour on the following day, as well attended.<sup>73</sup>

Although Durban was not a Revisionist stronghold and its Zionist leaders were known for their faithfulness to the policy of the Zionist Federation, the fact that Mr Begin was able to draw members of the community to his meeting indicated that his Party was not without sympathisers in Durban. It showed, furthermore, that the Zionist Council's efforts to dissuade the community from attending the meeting were not entirely effective.

On the national level the success of Mr Begin's campaign testified to the organisational ability of his Party which, in the face of intensive efforts by the Zionist Federation and the Board of Deputies, had managed to proceed with its plans for the campaign, which, in

<sup>71</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maqom*, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st October, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.1-2.

<sup>72</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maqom*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 18th November, 1957, at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>73</sup> *HaShalom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 15.

fact, raised a far larger sum than had been offered the *Herut-Hatzohar* by the *Keren Hayesod*.<sup>74</sup>

The Revisionist Campaign in Durban also brought the Party into conflict with the C.N.J. which had explicitly withheld its support from any such fundraising drive. At a meeting of the Council's Executive on November 7, 1957, it was argued that the C.N.J. had to act firmly in connection with the activities of the local Revisionists, for if it condoned the action of the Revisionist Party it was felt that it would open the way for other affiliated societies to ignore the decisions of the Council. Mr H.L. Magid accordingly moved:

That this Executive recommends to the Council that the membership of the United Revisionist Party (Durban Branch) be terminated in terms of Clause 11 of the Council's Constitution.

A spokesman for the Durban Branch of the Revisionist Party pointed out to the meeting that his branch was not autonomous and was bound by the decision of its headquarters. The Party also felt that at the outset of its campaign the Council's Executive should have indicated to it the possible consequences of acting in defiance of the Council's decision.

When put to the vote the motion was carried by 15

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<sup>74</sup>Gideon Shimoni, p.248.

votes to 3, with 5 abstentions,<sup>75</sup> which gave some indication of the severity with which the Council's Executive viewed this breach of discipline and revealed the marked lack of sympathy amongst the Executive for the Revisionists' campaign.

From discussion of the Executive's resolution at a meeting of the C.N.J.'s Executive and Council, on December 5, 1957, it became evident that there was a considerable divergence of opinion in respect of how to deal with the matter at hand. Those in favour of the Executive's recommendation believed that the very existence of the C.N.J. had been brought into question by the Revisionists, whose deliberate refusal to abide by a Council decision was viewed as a threat to the Council's authority and the unity of the community. Others expressed the view that membership of the Council by affiliated societies redounded to the benefit of the community as a whole, and that expulsion would cause greater harm to the Council. Although the Constitution of the Council did not provide any other form of sanction apart from the extreme measure of expulsion, a number of those present urged that a more moderate disciplinary measure be adopted. An amendment to the Executive Committee's resolution was therefore moved which read that:

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<sup>75</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 7th November, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.



This Council emphatically condemns the action of the Durban branch of the United Revisionist Party in conducting a campaign for funds in defiance of the Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. That this amendment should not be taken as an indication that any future actions in defiance of any Resolution of the Executive Committee would be condoned.

When put to the vote the amendment was carried as a substantive motion by 30 votes to 12, the votes of those who abstained not being counted.<sup>76</sup> The unity of the C.N.J. was thus preserved and its authority reasserted without recourse being taken to the extreme steps proposed by the Executive Committee.

Once a satisfactory arrangement was reached by the *Herut-Hatzohar* and the *Keren Hayesod*, during 1958, thereby obviating the need for further Revisionist campaigns in South Africa, steps were initiated to effect a reconciliation between the Revisionist Party and the Zionist Federation. Negotiations on this matter were protracted and were finally concluded in 1961.<sup>77</sup>

Visits by prominent Israelis to Durban were complemented by those made to the City, under the Zionist Council's auspices, by Israel's diplomatic representatives in South Africa. Such visits by members of the Israeli diplomatic staff not only reinforced the

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<sup>76</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club on Thursday, 5th December, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.3-7.

<sup>77</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.248.

community's close bonds with its National Homeland but were also a constant source of pride to a community whose members, for the most part, could recall a time when there had been no State of Israel. Such visitors were, therefore, looked upon as the embodiment of that thriving modern Jewish State and, wherever possible, the community involved them in its activities.

Early in 1956, when the retiring Israeli Consul General, Mr E. Eylón, paid a farewell visit to Durban, prior to his departure from South Africa, he not only addressed the community and discussed Israel's problems with local leaders, but also attended the Durban United Hebrew Schools' *Purim* Fancy Dress Party; a *Purim* Party organised by the *Chug Ivri*, and the soiree of the Jewish Club, held to mark the opening of the Silver Jubilee Year.<sup>78</sup>

In September 1956, Mr I. Bavly, the Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary, paid a flying visit to Durban where he met with the Executives of the C.N.J. and the Zionist Council for Natal, and was the guest of honour at a reception given by the Jewish community. Whilst in Durban Mr Bavly also attended a Gala Presentation Ball held by the Women's Zionist League,<sup>79</sup> and addressed the Youth Service of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>78</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, February, 1956, p.3., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 68., *The Zionist Record*, March 23, 1956, p.17.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, September 26, 1956, p.11.

<sup>80</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, August 31, 1956, p.10.

During 1958 and 1959, the Baviys paid two further, equally crowded, visits to Durban.<sup>81</sup>

Whilst visiting Durban in May 1957, the Israeli Consul General, Mr G. Doron and Mrs Doron, also carried out a very full programme. They spoke to the Jewish communities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg, addressed meetings of non-Jewish organisations, including Rotary, made consular calls and met consular representatives, had discussions on trade matters, addressed the *Chug Ivri* and attended services at the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, and the opening of the Temple David Hebrew School and Social Centre.<sup>82</sup> Mr and Mrs Doron returned to Durban in 1959, as the guests of honour at a Debutantes Ball, presented by the Women's Zionist League,<sup>83</sup> and in the following year once again paid a brief visit to the City.<sup>84</sup>

In May 1960, Durban Jewry enjoyed the pleasure of the company of Mr K. Salmon, the newly appointed Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary for Israel, and Mrs Salmon, when they paid a brief, but very full, visit

<sup>81</sup> *Haskalom Roah Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 58.

<sup>82</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 5.

<sup>83</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, August 14, 1959, p.20.

<sup>84</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th July, 1960, at 8 pm., p.2.

to the City.<sup>85</sup> Returning to Durban barely two months later, in order to attend the Queen's Birthday Banquet given by the Governor General,<sup>86</sup> Mr and Mrs Salmon were the guests of honour at a stage show at the Jewish Club,<sup>87</sup> and Mr Salmon laid the Foundation Stone of the new Synagogue of the Orthodox Congregation.<sup>88</sup>

Mr Simcha Pratt, Mr Salmon's successor, and Mrs Pratt, were the guests of the Durban Jewish community over *Rosh Hashanah* in 1961. The Ministerial Party attended services at the Synagogues of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, addressed the community and paid calls on the Administrator of Natal and the Mayors of Durban and Pietermaritzburg.<sup>89</sup>

The representatives of the Israeli Government can thus be seen to have played a very active part in local Jewish communal life, strengthening the partnership which the Zionist Movement forged between Israel and the Diaspora communities, and for which so much effort was expended by the Zionist Council.

Whilst Israeli visitors succeeded in stimulating

<sup>85</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 15th May, 1960, at 8 pm., p.2., *Hahalom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 8.

<sup>86</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, July 11, 1960, p.5.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, July 9, 1960, p.7.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, July 11, 1960, p.5.

<sup>89</sup> *The Zionist Record and the South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 22, 1961, p.9.

the community's interest in Israel and Zionism, it was the Zionist Council, working from many different directions, which, through its efforts, inspired amongst the Jews of Durban and Natal a greater sense of commitment to the Land and the Movement.

From its office at the *Maon* the Council directed Zionist activity in the Province and maintained links with the Jewish communities of Margate,<sup>90</sup> Escombe,<sup>91</sup> Pietermaritzburg<sup>92</sup> and Vryheid.<sup>93</sup> Together with representatives of all affiliated societies, these communities were invited to send representatives to the Natal Biennial Zionist Conferences that were organised by the Council, in order to give direction and relevance

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<sup>90</sup> Minutes of the 10th Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 8th August, 1956, p.3., Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, Durban, on Wednesday, 5th December 1956, at 5.15 pm., p.3.

<sup>91</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 19, 1956, p.16.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*, May 17, 1957, p.17., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVI No.1] (September, 1957), 70., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 19., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1958), 53., *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 31., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

<sup>93</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 17, 1957, p.17.

to Zionism in Natal.<sup>94</sup> The Council participated too in National Conferences of the Zionist Federation,<sup>95</sup> and it was a matter of considerable pride to the Council that Mr A. Levine, its Immediate Past Chairman, was included in the South African Delegation which attended the 25th World Zionist Congress, in Jerusalem in December, 1960.<sup>96</sup>

<sup>94</sup>The 5th Biennial Conference was held in May 1956, and the guest of honour was Brigadier Yigal Allon. (*Ibid.*, June 8, 1956, p.17.). The 6th Biennial Conference, at which the guest speaker was Mr E.J. Horwitz, the Vice-Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, was held in September, 1958. (*Ibid.*, September 26, 1958, p.10.). The 7th Biennial Conference, which was addressed by Mr Zvi Infeld, the General Secretary of the South African Zionist Federation, Mr M. Sharon, the Israeli Consul for Economic Affairs, Mrs G. Kark, the National President of the South African Women's Zionist Council, and Mr A.S. Super, the editor of *The Zionist Record*, was held in September 1960. (*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 21, 1960, p.4.).

<sup>95</sup>At the 25th South African Zionist Conference, held in August, 1956, the Durban delegates were Rabbi M. Miller, Messrs A. Levine, M. Rothschild and I. Fisher. (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.1.) At the 26th National Conference in May/June 1959, Messrs H.L. Magid, M. Rothschild, S. Goldberg and H. Hadany represented the Zionist Council (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3.) At the 27th Conference, held in August/September 1961, Messrs M. Rothschild, A. Levine, M. Fielding, L. Shapiro, A. Rogoff, B. Brazil, Mesdames L. Bilchik, E. Mallach and R. Silbert. represented the Council. (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th September, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.)

<sup>96</sup>*Sashalom*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 35., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.7] (March, 1961), 27.

The Council, in an effort to foster the community's Zionist sentiment, arranged pageants such as the annual *Yom Haatzmaut* celebrations in honour of Israel's Independence Day.<sup>97</sup> Particularly memorable were the activities that the Zionist Council arranged in connection with the State's 10th anniversary in 1958. This historic milestone occasioned much public attention through favourable editorial comment in the local press;<sup>98</sup> a talk by Miss Rose Alper (Mrs H.L. Magid) on the Music of Israel, on the English programme of the South African Broadcasting Corporation;<sup>99</sup> and a showing of Israeli films at the Wesley Hall, West Street, and Norwegian Hall, St. Thomas's Road.<sup>100</sup> A feature of the celebrations in Durban was a banquet attended by many distinguished members of public life in Durban and Pietermaritzburg, at which the guest of honour was Mr Yehuda Nedivi, the Town Clerk of Tel Aviv-Jaffa,<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>97</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 29., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 9., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 27., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 76., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, May 5, 1961, p.5.

<sup>98</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 21, 1958, p.8., *The Natal Daily News*, April 21, 1958, p.8.

<sup>99</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 14, 1958, p.9.

<sup>100</sup> *Ibid.*, April 21, 1958, p.8.

<sup>101</sup> *Ibid.*, April 22, 1958, p.2., *The Natal Daily News*, April 22, 1958, p.8., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 18-19.

and its climax was a mass celebration in the City Hall.<sup>102</sup> The Zionist Council was also associated with the project to establish a garden in Jerusalem as a gift to the people of Israel to commemorate the State's 10th Anniversary.<sup>103</sup>

In 1961, the Council also held a suitable function to mark the 75th birthday of David Ben Gurion.<sup>104</sup> This event not only identified the Durban Jewish community with the world-wide outpouring of tribute to Israel's most outstanding political figure, but by the attendance which it drew, testified to the extent of the community's Zionist sentiment.

In an effort to heighten the community's Zionist commitment and awareness the Council continued its practice of distributing the *Zionist Digest* to all Jewish households in Natal. The *Digest* reflected the activities of the Council and its affiliated bodies, and was the means whereby it was able to disseminate Zionist information to a wide cross section of the Jewish community.<sup>105</sup> The Zionist Council also established a reference library consisting of books, magazine articles

<sup>102</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, April 25, 1958, p.2.

<sup>103</sup>*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>104</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, November 10, 1961, p.4.

<sup>105</sup>*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 76., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.



and newspaper cuttings on all aspects of Zionism, Jewish festivals and Jewish history. This material was made freely available to those who were preparing lectures for delivery to the community and in particular those which were arranged under the auspices of a Zionist body.<sup>106</sup>

The promotion of adult education remained a primary objective of the Council, which annually arranged the Weizmann Memorial Evening, through the courtesy of the M.K. Rosenbach Trust Fund, to commemorate the *yahrzeit* of Dr Chaim Weizmann.<sup>107</sup> Under the Council's

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIX No.1 (September, 1960), 76.

<sup>107</sup> In 1956 the meeting was addressed by Messrs A. Goldberg, I. Fisher and Dr O. Ballin, who spoke on "Weizmann the Statesman, Weizmann the Zionist and Weizmann the Scientist." (*The Zionist Record*, February 10, 1956, p.12.). In 1957 Dr F. Herbststein, the Senior Industrial Research Officer with the South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in Pretoria, lectured on "The Weizmann Institute of Science." (*Haskolom*, XXXV No.8 (March, 1957), 5.). In 1958 Professor J. Penn, of Johannesburg, delivered a lecture on "Chaim Weizmann, Dreamer or Realist." (*The Natal Mercury*, October 24, 1958, p.12.). The 1959 lecture was delivered by Professor Y. Bentor, the Head of the Department of Geology at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, who spoke on "The Role of Science in the Establishment and Development of Israel." (*Haskolom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 43.). In 1960 Mrs Dolly Elias, of Johannesburg, delivered a lecture on "Rehovot and Jerusalem - A Modern Synthesis." (*The Natal Mercury*, November 18, 1960, p.14.) and in 1961 Mr S. Berg, of Johannesburg, spoke on "King Lear and Job - A Human Dilemma." (*Ibid.*, November 27, 1960, p.10.).

auspices numerous visitors,<sup>108</sup> as well as officers and officials of the South African Zionist Federation,<sup>109</sup> addressed the community on a wide variety of topics all related to Israel and Zionism. Foremost among these guests were Lady Russell of Liverpool, who, together with

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<sup>108</sup> Including Mr Benzion Shein, emissary of the Jewish Agency's Education, Youth and *Hechalutz* Departments (*Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 68.). Mr B. Cherrick, Director of the Department of Information of the Hebrew University (*Heshalom*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 19 and 21.). Mr M. Golan, the Israeli Trade Consul in South Africa (*The Natal Mercury*, August 20, 1959, p.9.) Dr Jack Penn (*Ibid.*, September 15, 1959), p.8.) Professor Sidney Kark. (*Ibid.*, March 2, 1960, p.10.) Dr Karplus, the Head of the Leopold Greenberg Institute of Forensic Medicine and Colonel Schurr, the Head of the Information Section of the Israeli Police, Tel Aviv, who attended the Medico Legal Congress in Durban. (*Heshalom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 29.). Mr Amram Zur, Director of the Public Relations Department of the Israel Tourist Corporation (*Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70.).

<sup>109</sup> Including Dr M. Natas, the Cultural Officer of the South African Zionist Federation, (*Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 68., *The Zionist Record*, June 5, 1959, p.16., *Ibid.*, July 14, 1961, p.14.) Mr Avni of J.N.F. Department, (*Ibid.*, March 7, 1958, p.12.) Mr Zvi Infeld, the Organising Secretary of the Zionist Federation, (*Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 58., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70.) Mr S.M. Lewin, the General Secretary of the Israel Office of the Zionist Federation, (*Ibid.*) Mr R. Hellman, the Executive Secretary of the J.N.F. Charitable Trust of South Africa, Ltd., [*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 75.) Mr D. Wacks of the Information Department of the Zionist Federation, (*Ibid.*) Advocate H. Hanson, the Vice-Chairman of the Zionist Federation, (*Ibid.*) and Mr R. Tamir, Mrs G. Kark, Mr A. Abrahamson, Mr L. Leibowitz, Mr A. Super, and Mrs D. Elias, all representing the Federation. (*Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70.)

her husband Lord Russell, was a devoted friend of Israel;<sup>110</sup> Colonel Moshe Pearlman, Director of the Israel Government Information Office and adviser to the Prime Minister on Public Affairs;<sup>111</sup> Professor Simon Halkin, the eminent Israeli scholar;<sup>112</sup> and Dr Zvi Adar, the prominent Israeli educationalist and Biblical scholar.<sup>113</sup>

A noteworthy feature of the Zionist Council's communal educational efforts were the adult Hebrew classes that were inaugurated in 1956, under the direction of Mr I. Fisher, the Council's Secretary. Beginners classes met three times a week and were taught by Mrs M. Kaplansky, whilst intermediate and advanced classes met twice a week and were taught by Mrs J. Brooks and Mr I. Fisher respectively. In addition a special class for women was held on two mornings a week.<sup>114</sup> From their inception the classes proved to be extremely popular and within only a few months additional classes had to be arranged for beginners.<sup>115</sup> By October 1957,

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<sup>110</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, April 16, 1957, p.4., *Haskolom*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 5 and 17.

<sup>111</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, May 20, 1959, p.8.

<sup>112</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, October 16, 1959, p.19.

<sup>113</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, August 10, 1960, p.10.

<sup>114</sup>*The Zionist Record*, March 23, 1956, p.17.

<sup>115</sup>Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 23rd July, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3.

the Council was running seven classes, consisting of 50 students, including a beginners' class in Westville.<sup>116</sup> Four months later the number of classes had increased to ten and the number of pupils had risen to 70.<sup>117</sup>

Among those who benefited greatly from the instruction were intending *olim* who were able to learn the rudiments of the Hebrew language prior to their going on *aliyah*.<sup>118</sup> In 1961, by which time the Council's Hebrew classes had been running uninterruptedly for five years, the total number of students stood at 110, divided between eight classes, three of which were for beginners.<sup>119</sup> Of all the Council's educational activities the Hebrew classes were unique insofar as no such classes were organised on such a large scale by any other communal organisation, and their popularity testified to the void which had previously existed in respect of adult Hebrew lessons.

The progress and development of the Council's

<sup>116</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st October, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>117</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on 17th February, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.4.

<sup>118</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 72.

<sup>119</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th February, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

Hebrew classes was followed with keen interest by the *Chug Ivri*, which continued to meet under the chairmanship of Mr H. Hadany. Formerly associated with the Durban Zionist Association, the *Chug* came to be more closely identified with the Zionist Council, but in its structure and activities it remained largely unchanged. After forming itself into a branch of the *Histadrut Ivrit* in 1955,<sup>120</sup> the *Chug* entered into negotiations with the *Histadrut*, in Johannesburg, early in 1956, with regard to its affiliation.<sup>121</sup> At the Conference of the *Histadrut Ivrit*, in Johannesburg, in 1956, the representatives of the *Chug Ivri* raised the question of a subsidy for the Council's Hebrew classes and emphasised the need for closer contact between the *Chug* and the *Histadrut Ivrit*.<sup>122</sup> A direct consequence of this Conference was the visit of Mr and Mrs J. Shapiro, the *Histadrut's* *Shlichim* to Durban.<sup>123</sup> On Mr Shapiro's recommendation a Junior *Chug Ivri* was formed in 1956.

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<sup>120</sup> Minutes of the 45th Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 27th October, 1955 at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>121</sup> Minutes of the 60th Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 9th May, 1956, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>122</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>123</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Arcade, Durban, on Monday, 22nd October, 1956, at 8 pm., p.2.

for the students of the Hebrew classes<sup>124</sup> which succeeded in arranging a number of successful functions for its members, all of which were conducted entirely in Hebrew.<sup>125</sup>

The *Ohug*, meanwhile, continued to hold regular functions,<sup>126</sup> many of which were associated with the Jewish holidays<sup>127</sup> and members were afforded the

<sup>124</sup> *The Zionist Record*, December 14, 1956, p.13.

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, June 21, 1957, p.16., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 21st October, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on 17th February, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.4., *Heshalom Rosh Hashana's Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>126</sup> Including a newspaper evening, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 23rd July, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3.) a Living Newspaper, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4.) a farewell to Mr and Mrs Kaplansky, (*The Zionist Record*, March 15, 1957, p.17.) and a function held to mark the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Eliezer ben Yehuda (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 15th August, 1958, p.3.).

<sup>127</sup> Including a *Tu B'Shvat* function, in February, 1956, (*The Zionist Record*, February 10, 1956, p.12.) a *Paris* function in 1956, (*Ibid.*, March 23, 1956, p.17.) a *Chanukah* function that same year, (Minutes of the 20th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Buildings, Durban, on November 28, 1956, at 5.15 pm., p.3.) and a *Shavuot* function in 1957 (*The Zionist Record*, June 21, 1957, p.16.).

opportunity to hear talks by a variety of interesting speakers.<sup>128</sup> From 1959, however, the meetings of the *Chug* diminished in their regularity,<sup>129</sup> and by the middle of the year the *Chug* had effectively ceased functioning.<sup>130</sup> Its demise was in no way attributable to any one factor, but probably stemmed from the *Chug* having no set programme of activities sufficiently interesting and varied to hold the attention of the members: its dependence instead on a fixed formula of functions and talks failed to sustain their interest. With a sense of considerable gratification the Zionist Council witnessed the resuscitation of the *Chug*, under the chairmanship of Mr P. Deift, early in 1962.<sup>131</sup>

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<sup>128</sup> Including Mr E. Eylon, the Israeli Consul General, (*Ibid.*, March 23, 1956, p.17.) Brigadier Yigal Allon, (*Ibid.*, June 22, 1956, p.14.) Dr M. Natas, the Cultural Officer of the Zionist Federation, (*Ibid.*, May 24, 1957, p.17.) Mr G. Doron, the Israeli Consul General, (*Hashalom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 5.) Mr J. Shapiro, the *Shaliach* of the *Histadrut Ivrit*, (*The Zionist Record*, July 26, 1957, p.17.) Mr J. Avri of the J.N.F. Department, (*Ibid.*, March 7, 1958, p.12.) Mr Yehuda Nedivi, the Town Clerk of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, (*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 19.) Dr Shostes of the Y.I.U.O. Institute (*The Zionist Record*, July 11, 1958, p.13.) and Mr I. Bavly, the Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary. (*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59.

<sup>130</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Macon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban on the 17th August, 1959, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>131</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1962), 71.

In seeking to be of practical assistance to the State of Israel the Zionist Council supported a special Trade Sub-Committee which was formed in 1955, under the chairmanship of Mr B. Beare, with a view to popularising Israeli merchandise and thereby stimulating Israeli trade with South Africa.<sup>132</sup> At the local *Yom Haatzmaut* celebrations in 1957, this Sub-Committee organised an *EL AL* Israel airline display at the Jewish Club and arranged for a representative of the airway's head office to be available to talk to those who visited the display.<sup>133</sup> The Sub-Committee was also responsible for all the business aspects in connection with a visit to Durban by a group of Israeli mannequins. This included the arrangements in connection with a special parade of fashions for all potential importers of Israeli clothing.<sup>134</sup>

The Trade Sub-Committee welcomed the regular visits of Israeli ships to Durban regarding them as evidence of the increasing trade between Israel and South Africa.<sup>135</sup> These visits were important not only because they contributed to Israel's economy, but because they also brought the community into contact with Israeli

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<sup>132</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 73.

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 68.

<sup>134</sup> *The Zionist Record*, July 26, 1957, p.17.

<sup>135</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59.



seamen who brought first hand and regular news of Israel with them.<sup>136</sup> In co-operation with the Jewish Club and the Durban branch of the Jewish Ex-Service League the Zionist Council formed a special committee to entertain these Israeli sailors.<sup>137</sup>

The Zionist Council also actively promoted tourism to Israel<sup>138</sup> and derived much pleasure from the increasing number of Durban and Natal travellers who included Israel in their holiday itineraries and brought interesting reports back with them.<sup>139</sup> It took much pride too in the growing number of young people who attended student programmes in Israel.<sup>140</sup>

From amongst the community's most devoted Zionists between the ages of 25 and 50 years a small number were selected to participate in the Zionist Workers' Seminars which were held in Israel under the direction of the Organisation Department of the Jewish Agency. Mr I. Fisher, the Council's Secretary, attended such a

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 76.

<sup>137</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 2-3.

<sup>138</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 58., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>139</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 58.

<sup>140</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 68.

a seminar in December 1958/January 1959<sup>141</sup> and at the end of 1959 Mr M. Rothschild and Mrs R. Silbert were amongst the 20 Zionist workers chosen to participate in this important programme,<sup>142</sup> for which Mr D. Firer and Mrs A. Goldberg were selected in 1960.<sup>143</sup>

Particular stress was naturally laid by the Council on *aliyah* and through its office it extended all possible assistance to immigrants to Israel. Regular visits were made to Durban by representatives of the *Aliyah* Department of the Zionist Federation to aid those contemplating *aliyah*.<sup>144</sup> In October 1959, Matron Zagagi of Tel Hashomer Hospital visited Durban to interview young girls and their parents.<sup>145</sup> Other visitors to Durban in connection with *aliyah* were

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<sup>141</sup> Minutes of the 4th Council Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 19th January, 1959, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban p.3.

<sup>142</sup> *HashaLom*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 12, 13, 15.

<sup>143</sup> Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th September, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>144</sup> They included Mr Zvi Halmer, (*The Natal Daily News*, October 22, 1957, p.8.). Mr Les Sheer (Minutes of the 77th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 6th August, 1958, p.2., *The Natal Mercury*, July 22, 1959, p.8.).

<sup>145</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on 21st September, 1959, at 8 pm., p.4.

Mr R. Trachtman<sup>146</sup> and Mr Louis Krokin,<sup>147</sup> both of whom conducted numerous interviews and addressed several drawing room meetings.

Although it has been correctly noted that for South African Zionists the idea of *aliyah* as a personal imperative was not central to their Zionist consciousness, and that Israel was very much a complement to their continued life in the Diaspora rather than a replacement for it,<sup>148</sup> in this period there was, nevertheless, a steady rise in the number of *olim* from Durban.<sup>149</sup> Some of those who left the community to start a new life in Israel were, Simcha and Senta Frame, Joel and Myra Klotz, Kenny and Margaret Beck, Judy and Martin Kessel,<sup>150</sup> Keith Greenberg, Nurith Hadany,

<sup>146</sup> Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, the 7th November, 1960, at 8.15 pm., p.3., Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 27th November, 1961, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.2.

<sup>147</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 15th May, 1961, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>148</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.257.

<sup>149</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 75., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 29th January, 1962, at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>150</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59.

Leon Bierman, Sharon Ernst<sup>151</sup> and David and Deborah Geshen,<sup>152</sup> who were all graduates of the Zionist youth movements. Others, like Mr H. Hadany,<sup>153</sup> Mr P. Patz and Mrs M. Bierman<sup>154</sup> followed the example of earlier local Zionist leaders<sup>155</sup> and joined the small but growing community of ex-Durbanites in Israel. Sufficient interest in *aliyah* was shown in Durban for steps to, in fact, be taken by the Zionist Council in 1960, to bring an *Aliyah* Committee into being.<sup>156</sup>

Considerable encouragement was given by the Zionist Council to the Special *Aliyah* Scheme, which was introduced by the Zionist Federation in 1955, and which continued until 1964. Designed specifically to encourage *aliyah* of young South African Jews, it provided for groups of South African Jewish youth, who were contemplating *aliyah*, to undergo a specially shortened period of training within the framework of *Nahal*, which combined military training with agricultural service on

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<sup>151</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 75.

<sup>152</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 75.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70.

<sup>155</sup> Such as Mr E. Schragenheim, (*Haskolom*, XXVII No.8 (April, 1949), 25.) and Mr and Mrs H. Moss-Morris (*Haskolom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 68.).

<sup>156</sup> Minutes of the 59th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 8th August, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

border settlements. The advantages of this scheme were firstly, that it eased the *aliyah* of the young immigrants by keeping them in the supportive environment of other South Africans and in close liason with the Zionist Federation's Tel Aviv office during their period of military training which all young settlers had to undergo upon becoming citizens; secondly, it placed them in an advantageous position to integrate themselves into life in Israel and to make a contribution to its security; finally it made it possible for those who chose to return to South Africa to settle in Israel at a later date, the difficulty of their obligatory military training having already been overcome.<sup>157</sup> Among those from Durban who participated in the *Nahal* Scheme were Zahava Sher, Ralph Dobrin, Alfred Metzger, Michael Perling, Merrick Rubin,<sup>158</sup> Eleanor Lowatz,<sup>159</sup> David Shotter, Isadore Levitan, Michael Lyons, Hilton Lotkin and Glen Brazil.<sup>160</sup>

Great interest was shown by the Council in the work of the Israel Medical Sub-Committee and much satisfaction was derived from the news, in 1956, that

<sup>157</sup> Gideon Shimoni, p.259.

<sup>158</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>159</sup> Minutes of the 8th Meeting of the Executive Council of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 10th December, 1958, at 5.15 pm., p.4.

<sup>160</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 71.

Professor I. Gordon and Doctors S. Kark and T. Gillman, all of whom taught at the Medical School of the University of Natal, had been invited to spend some time in Israel to assist the School of Medicine there.<sup>161</sup> The enormous contribution made over the years to community and health services in Israel by Dr Sidney Kark and his wife Dr Emily Kark, and Professor Gordon's contribution to forensic medicine were highlighted in an address to the Medical Sub-Committee, in 1957, by Dr Jack Penn, the Chairman of the Medical Executive of the Zionist Federation.<sup>162</sup> Recognition of the services rendered by Durban doctors to Israel filled the Jewish community with a great deal of pride and inspired the small Medical Sub-Committee in Durban, under the chairmanship of Dr N. Smith, to persevere with its activities with renewed vigour.

Dr Sidney Kark, who had continued to pay periodic visits to Israel, as consultant to the Israeli Ministry of Health on the development of its Family Health Services,<sup>163</sup> finally left Durban in 1959, to head a three year project which included in-service training and undergraduate and post graduate teaching in Israel. His team of social and preventative medicine experts who

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<sup>161</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Mason, Pioneer Arcade, Durban, on Monday, 22nd October, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>162</sup> *The Zionist Record*, March 15, 1957, p.13.

<sup>163</sup> *Haskolom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, (XXXVII No.1) (September, 1958), 49.

accompanied him included several former Natal doctors and university lecturers who were disillusioned by the Union Government's attempts to take over the Durban Medical School, and by the unfavourable attitude towards their new approach to medical problems. Apart from Dr Kark and Dr Emily Kark, the team included Professor Guy Stewart, Dr and Mrs Cecil Siome, and Mr and Mrs Bruce Ward,<sup>164</sup> who were later joined by Dr B. Gampel and Dr J.H. Abrahamson.<sup>165</sup> Dr Kark's work in Israel was followed with keen interest by the Jewish community in Durban and many members of the community attended a luncheon held by the Zionist Council in 1960, at which Dr Kark, who was on a brief visit to Durban, spoke on the progress of his project.<sup>166</sup>

The Medical Sub-Committee, furthermore, hosted visiting Israeli medical personalities during their stays in Durban. Among these visitors were Professor Felix Saegher of the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School,<sup>167</sup> Dr Cjebin, the Chairman of the Israeli Medical Association and Director of the

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<sup>164</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, November 26, 1959, p.3.

<sup>165</sup> *Ibid.*, October 28, 1960, p.8.

<sup>166</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, April 1, 1960, p.9.

<sup>167</sup> *Hashalom Bosh Hashanah Annual*, {XXXIX No.1} (September, 1960), 75.

Rambam Hospital in Haifa,<sup>168</sup> and Professor M. Rachmilewitz,  
Dean of the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School.<sup>169</sup>

All these visitors not only lectured to the Medical  
Sub-Committee but also interviewed doctors interested in  
finding positions in Israel, and thereby complemented the  
work of promoting *aliyah* which was carried out by the  
Zionist Council.

In seeking to be of service to Israel the Zionist  
Council expended considerable energy in the area of  
public relations. Largely through the Council's work  
in this regard the Gentile populace of Durban came to be  
acquainted with Israel's multifaceted character and  
ceased to think of the country solely in terms of its  
military capability.

Numerous requests were constantly received from  
non-Jewish organisations for speakers on all matters  
pertaining to Israel, and interest in the country was  
evident from the number of enquiries for films and other  
material which were received from outside organisations.<sup>170</sup>  
Much goodwill was naturally engendered through those

<sup>168</sup> Minutes of the 60th Meeting of the Executive  
Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held  
at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday,  
22nd August, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>169</sup> Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Executive  
Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held  
at the *Maon*, on 4th October, 1961, at 5.15 pm.,  
p.2.

<sup>170</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1  
(September, 1957), 68., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah  
Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 58.,  
*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 75.



means.

Major activities which succeeded in projecting Israel into the public eye included an Israeli Week which was held at the Pabros Theatre in Payne Bros. Department Store, in July 1957. It featured paintings, photographs, handicrafts, dolls, stamps, films and music from the Jewish State. Mounted by the Zionist Council, largely through the efforts of the Women's Zionist League, the exhibition, in the week following its opening by Mr A. Levine, the Council's Chairman, attracted over 1,000 visitors who gained a new insight into the State and its peace-time achievements.<sup>171</sup> This Israeli promotion coincided with a display of fashions by Israel's foremost models, which was held at the Durban City Hall, under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress of Durban, Councillor Percy Osborn and Mrs Osborn.<sup>172</sup>

During August 1957, the public of Durban was exposed to another facet of Israeli cultural life when an exhibition of paintings by 22 Israeli artists, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture and Education in Israel was held in the Municipal Art Gallery.<sup>173</sup>

A further exhibition of considerable importance was mounted in Pabros Theatre, in May, 1960. Entitled

<sup>171</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, July 3, 1957, p.8., July 4, 1957, p.3., *Hasholom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 15.

<sup>172</sup>*The Zionist Record*, July 26, 1957, p.17.

<sup>173</sup>*The Natal Mercury*, August 6, 1957, p.1.

"Ten Years of Progress of the State" it featured a photographic exhibition, which was complimented by a display of Israeli art, crafts and fashions, which were loaned to the Zionist Council by members of the Jewish community for the duration of the exhibition. Opened by the Mayor, Councillor C.A. Milne, in the presence of Mr K. Salmon, the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Israel and Mrs Salmon, the exhibition, and the Israeli film shows which were held daily, attracted enormous crowds of people<sup>174</sup> and considerably enhanced Israel's image in the minds of the Durban public.

Although preoccupied with all matters pertaining to Zionism, within the framework of communal life in Durban, the Zionist Council did not function in isolation but collaborated instead with other Jewish organisations in an attempt to build up a vital Jewish community. Relations between the Council and the C.N.J. remained harmonious and both Council's collaborated closely in matters of mutual concern. Equally cordial too, were the Council's relations with the Jewish Club and the other communal bodies of the City.

Together with the C.N.J. the Zionist Council held joint discussions in an effort to determine the feasibility of setting up machinery in Natal to deal simultaneously with both the U.C.F. and the I.U.A.

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<sup>174</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, May 12, 1960, p.6., *The Zionist Record* and *the South African Jewish Chronicle*. June 3, 1960, p.17.

campaigns,<sup>175</sup> and assisted the C.N.J. in concluding its survey of the Durban Jewish community.<sup>176</sup> Sharing the C.N.J.'s interest and concern in the community's youth, the Zionist Council helped to finance the youth *News Sheet* which was first issued by the Standing Youth Sub-Committee in 1957.<sup>177</sup> It also took delight in the emergence of the Natal Jewish Youth Council and demonstrated this by contributing with the C.N.J., towards its financial maintenance.<sup>178</sup> Following the Youth Council's affiliation to the South African Zionist Youth Council and its admission to the Zionist Council, an even closer association between the youth and the Council developed.<sup>179</sup> Together with the C.N.J. the Zionist Council further assisted the youth by establishing a special fund to help young members of the community to proceed to Israel to take certain study courses.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>176</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 29th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 21st, 1960, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>177</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 29.

<sup>178</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59.

<sup>180</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.6.

From 1959, the Zionist Council was associated financially with the Jewish Education Council in the running of People's College<sup>181</sup> and thereby contributed further to the cultural life of the community.

With its broad vision and the wide scope of its work the Zionist Council can be seen to have played an important part in communal life in the City. Through it, not only were all matters related to Israel and Zionism effectively articulated, and links with the Zionist Federation affirmed, but by its involvement in the affairs of the community as a whole its position in the community was enhanced, whilst the work which it performed greatly magnified its stature.

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<sup>181</sup>Minutes of the 80th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Wednesday, 3rd September, 1958, at 5 pm., p.1.

## CHAPTER XLVIII

ZIONIST ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITY : 1956 - 1961

The strength of the Zionist Movement in Durban lay not only in its effective organisation through the Zionist Council for Natal, but also in the activities of the Council's affiliated bodies, which continued to embrace all categories of people and schools of Zionist thought. Through these societies members of the Jewish community were enabled to give full expression to their Zionist sentiments.

Almost unique in South Africa, in terms of its age and composition, was the Durban Zionist Association, which was one of the oldest and one of the few existing all-Party male Zionist societies in the country. During this period under review, it remained extremely active in all spheres of Zionist and communal endeavour, with individuals rising from its ranks to serve in the highest positions in the Zionist Council.

Much of the Association's work was related to Israel which it sought to serve through a variety of channels. It took a particularly keen interest in the promotion of trade with Israel, the furthering of tourism, and the promotion of *aliyah*, and sub-committees were specifically formed for these departments which worked in close

co-operation with the Zionist Council.<sup>1</sup>

Members of the Durban Zionist Association continued to assist in the campaigns that were held on behalf of the I.U.A.,<sup>2</sup> were associated with the staging of the annual *Yom Haatzmaut* celebrations,<sup>3</sup> and participated in both local<sup>4</sup> and national Zionist Conferences.<sup>5</sup> Together with the Durban Women's Zionist League they took part in

<sup>1</sup> Report of the Durban Zionist Association to the Fifth Natal Biennial Zionist Conference, May, 1956, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

<sup>2</sup> Report of the Durban Zionist Association to the Fifth Natal Biennial Zionist Conference, May, 1956, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *The Zionist Record*, June 22, 1956, p.14., September 26, 1958, p.10., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 21, 1960, p.4.

<sup>5</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.1., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3. Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th September, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.

the Tree Drives,<sup>6</sup> Clothing Drives<sup>7</sup> and *Shake! Collections*<sup>8</sup> which were conducted amongst the members of the Jewish community, and annually assisted the women at their WIZO Fete.<sup>9</sup>

On the communal level the Association continued to support financially the communal *Seder*<sup>10</sup> and to play its part in enhancing the cultural life of the Jews of Durban. The Morrison Memorial Lecture, which the Association sponsored annually to commemorate the late Mr and Mrs Moses Morrison, remained an important cultural event and one which continued to attract great interest and to enjoy considerable prestige. A variety of prominent speakers were brought to Durban to deliver this lecture and they addressed the community on a wide

<sup>6</sup> Report of the Durban Zionist Association to the Fifth Natal Biennial Zionist Conference, May, 1956., Minutes of the 27th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, Durban, on Wednesday, 27th February, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.3., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

<sup>7</sup> Report of the Durban Zionist Association to the Fifth Natal Biennial Zionist Conference, May, 1956.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

<sup>9</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

<sup>10</sup> Report of the Durban Zionist Association to the Fifth Natal Biennial Zionist Conference, May, 1956, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

range of topics related to Israel.<sup>11</sup>

The bulk of the Association's activities, which were principally cultural in nature, continued to consist largely of lectures, which were delivered by a variety of

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<sup>11</sup>In 1956 Professor A. van Selms of the University of Pretoria lectured on the "Dead Sea Scrolls." (*Haskalah*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 17.). In 1957 Mr C. Hirschmann, a member of the Executive Committee of the South African Zionist Federation, spoke on his recent visit to Israel, where he had attended an Executive Meeting of the Jewish Agency. (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 26.). In 1958 Dr H. Abt spoke on "Professor Martin Buber." (*Haskalah Roah Bashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51.). In 1959 the lecture was delivered by Mr Leo Schwarz, the University student counsellor of the Board of Deputies (*The Natal Mercury*, June 23, 1959, p.10.). Mr A. Abrahamson, the Secretary of the Western Province Zionist Council, spoke in 1960 on "Theodor Herzl, The Man Who Inspired a Nation," his lecture forming part of the Herzl Centenary Celebrations (*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, August 12, 1960, p.16.). In 1961, Mr Arthur Super, the editor of *The Zionist Record*, spoke on "Israel and Afro-Asia." (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Mason, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th June, 1956, at 8 pm., p.5.).



speakers on a wide range of topics,<sup>12</sup> and functions,

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<sup>12</sup>Including lectures by Rabbi Kopul Kahana, a Professor of Rabbinics from London, (*The Natal Mercury*, August 10, 1956, p.4., *Hashalom Bosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69.) Mr Michael Goldberg, who had visited the Middle East as a special correspondent for the daily press, (*The Zionist Record*, December 14, 1956, p.13.) Dr Moshe Natas, the Cultural Officer of the Zionist Federation, (*Ibid.*, May 24, 1957, p.17.) Dr and Mrs Medalie (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 17th June, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3.) Mr H. Hadany who had returned from a trip to Israel, (*The Zionist Record*, July 26, 1957, p.17.) Mr H.L. Magid, the Vice-Chairman of the Zionist Council for Natal who had visited Israel (*Ibid.*, September 13, 1957, p.9.) Professor I. Gordon, Professor of Pathology and Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Natal as well as visiting Professor of Forensic Medicine at Hebrew University and adviser for Israel's medico legal services, (*Ibid.*, November 29, 1957, p.13.) Mrs R. Rothschild who had participated in a Women's Seminar in Israel (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th August, 1958, p.4.) Mrs L. Bilchik, Messrs H. Hadany and G. Tollman who spoke on their impressions of Israel, (*The Zionist Record*, August 22, 1958, p.18.) Mr S. Ernst, Director of Jewish Education in Natal, (Minutes of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 17th November, 1958, at 8 pm., p.21.), Rabbi M. Miller, who delivered a memorial lecture for Professor Joseph Klausner, the famous Jewish scholar and historian and the former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Members of the Senate of the Hebrew University, (*Hashalom Bosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60.) Messrs M. Rothschild and P. Pats, who spoke on their impressions of Israel, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st March, 1960, at 8 pm., p.7.) and Rabbi Dr Shrock who spoke on his visit to Israel, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th June, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.)

which were arranged with considerable regularity, often in association with other Zionist or communal organisations.<sup>13</sup> An important cultural innovation, first introduced by the Association in 1959, was the annual Bible Quiz,<sup>14</sup> which drew teams of competitors from a number of different Jewish organisations. The popularity of this event was evident from the large and enthusiastic audiences which it attracted to the Jewish Club, in conjunction with whose Culture Section the Quiz was arranged.<sup>15</sup>

Under the auspices of the Zionist Association the extremely popular lunch forums also continued to be held

<sup>13</sup> Including an evening of book reviews, (*The Zionist Record*, October 19, 1956, p.16.) a film evening, (*Ibid.*, July 26, 1957, p.17.) a function with the Friends of *Habonim* (Minutes of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 17th November, 1958, at 8 pm., p.21.) a *Chanukah* function with the Jewish Ex-Service League and the *Misrahi*, (*Ibid.*) a Brains Trust, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6.) A Living Newspaper, (Minutes of the 28th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 15th July, 1959, at 8 pm., p.2.) a farewell function to Mr and Mrs H. Hadany prior to their *aliyah* (*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 9, 1960, p.19.) and a function entitled "Glimpses of Israel." (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th June, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.).

<sup>14</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 4., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

<sup>15</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 79., *Ibid.*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 10-11.

at the *Maon*, and to be addressed by a variety of distinguished guests, both from home and from abroad.<sup>16</sup> These lunches served the cultural goals of the Association and at the same time fostered a spirit of friendship and sociability amongst the Association's members who were drawn together out of a shared Zionist

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<sup>16</sup> Including Rabbi Raphael Halpern, the well-known Israeli wrestler who beat the South African heavyweight champion Percy Hall in a bout on January 19, 1956, (*The Natal Mercury*, January 5, 1956, p.16., January 19, 1956, p.3., January 20, 1956, p.17., *Haskolom*, XXXV No.5 (January, 1956), 18.) Lieutenant Colonel Gower Jackson, Commander of the Order of St. John, who spoke on his impressions of Israel, (Minutes of the 9th Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 1st August, 1956, at 5.15 pm., p.3.) Colonel A. Yoffee, who had commanded the 9th Brigade during the Sinai Campaign, (*Haskolom Roah Hashanah Annakal*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 68.) Mr Benzion Ilan, emissary of the Jewish Agency's Education, Youth and *Bechalutz* Departments, (*Ibid.*) Mr B. Beare, the Chairman of the local Israel Trade Committee (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th November, 1951, at 8 pm., p.4.) Colonel Yosef Nevo, Commander of the Southern Sector during the Sinai Campaign, (Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 16th March, 1959, at 8 pm., p.2.) Mr Benzion Tooval, the Dean of Students at the Haifa Technion, (*The Natal Mercury*, October 25, 1960, p.6.) Mr L. Krokin, a businessman who spoke on his impressions of Israel, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 15th May, 1961, at 8 pm., p.3.) Mr H. Hadany, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th June, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.) and Professor Rachmilewitz, Dean of the Hebrew University's Medical School (Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on 4th October, 1961, at 5.15 pm., p.2.1.)

sentiment.

In respect of the community's youth the Association maintained the Schragenheim Bursary, a monetary award which was made in recognition of good progress in Hebrew, and was given to further such studies to matriculation level. Given in recognition of the services of Mr E. Schragenheim to Zionism in Durban, the award continued to be made in consultation with Mr S. Ernst, the Regional Director for Jewish Education.<sup>17</sup> Further evidence of the Zionist Association's interest in the youth was reflected in its regular contribution to the fund, created by the Council of Natal Jewry and the Zionist Council for Natal, to enable young people to participate in youth leadership courses in Israel.<sup>18</sup>

The work of the Durban Zionist Association, whilst varied in its nature, was overwhelmingly Zionist in its orientation and it gave the Jewish men of the community a vehicle through which to serve the Zionist cause. A channel to satisfy the similar needs of the women of the community was found in the Durban Women's Zionist League,

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<sup>17</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

<sup>18</sup> Report of the Durban Zionist Association to the Fifth Natal Biennial Zionist Conference, May, 1956, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

the largest of the Jewish women's organisations in the City. Throughout this period the League, which in 1958, celebrated its 25th anniversary, with a lavish reception, attended by Mr I. Bavly, the Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary, and Mrs Bavly, and Mr Jan Pearce, the Metropolitan Opera Star, and Mrs Pearce,<sup>19</sup> remained a dynamic and vibrant organisation. It enjoyed excellent leadership and had many active supporters and workers, the number of its subscribing members standing at 880 a few months after its Silver Jubilee.<sup>20</sup> Formerly the second largest of the Jewish women's organisations in the City, the League came, upon the amalgamation of the Jewish Women's Guild and the Jewish Benevolent Society, to be the largest Jewish Women's body in Durban.

The League's work was carried out by its different branches which, during the years under review, increased in number from nine<sup>21</sup> to eleven.<sup>22</sup> Delimitated according to residential suburbs these branches, each with their own branch chairman and committee, co-ordinated their work through the League's officers and committee and came together monthly for combined meetings, in order to maintain the League's overall unity.

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<sup>19</sup>*The Zionist Record*, November 7, 1958, p.14.

<sup>20</sup>*Hachalom Roah Hachanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 31.

<sup>21</sup>*The Zionist Record*, May 23, 1958, p.14., May 8, 1959, p.19.

<sup>22</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, May 5, 1961, p.15.

Through its continued affiliation to the Women's Zionist Council of South Africa the League retained close links with sister groups around South Africa, which were strengthened by the visits paid to Durban by members of the Women's Zionist Council<sup>23</sup> and by the League's participation in the Council's Biennial Conferences.<sup>24</sup> The bonds between the League and the Women's Zionist Council were reflected in the celebration which the League arranged at the Jewish Club in 1958 to mark the 25th anniversary of the South African Women's Zionist Council, at which the guest of honour was Mrs R. Silbert.

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<sup>23</sup>Including Mesdames Inez Gordon, Jennie Targowsky, Gertrude Kark (*Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1958), 31.) Mrs Jeannette Davidoff, (*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59.) Mrs Anna Franks (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77.) and Mrs Dolly Elias (*Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.).

<sup>24</sup>At the 12th Women's Zionist Conference the League was represented by Mesdames M. Broomberg and R. Rothschild. (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.1.) Twelve delegates from Durban attended the 13th Conference in May, 1959. (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 15th June, 1959, at 8 pm., p.2.) and in August 1961 Mesdames L. Bilchik, M. Bierman, D. Berkowitz, A. Goldberg, E. Gordon, R. Levine and E. Mallach represented the League and Mesdames R. Silbert, L. Abel, M. Broomberg and R. Hirschowitz represented the Natal Provincial Committee at the 14th Women's Zionist Conference (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 21st August, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.).

the Council's local leader in Natal.<sup>25</sup> The League was represented too at the Biennial Conferences of the South African Zionist Federation, to which it was also affiliated,<sup>26</sup> and naturally played its part in the Biennial Conferences of the Zionist Council for Natal.<sup>27</sup>

Prominent members of the League were honoured by well merited selection for conferences and courses in Israel, and, by being so honoured, brought distinction to the League itself. In 1957, Mrs M. Broomberg was chosen to represent Natal at the World WIZO Conference in Jerusalem,<sup>28</sup> and a year later her colleague, Mrs R. Rothschild participated in a seminar for WIZO Key Workers that was held in Israel.<sup>29</sup> Mrs Rothschild, an indefatigable worker in the cause of Zionism, toured

<sup>25</sup> *Bashalom Roah Basha'nah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49.1.

<sup>26</sup> Mesdames R. Silbert, L. Bilchik and R. Rothschild attended the 26th South African Zionist Conference in 1959 (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 15th June, 1959, at 8 pm., p.2.1) and Mrs L. Bilchik, E. Mallach and R. Silbert attended the 27th South African Zionist Conference in 1961 (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 21st August, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.1).

<sup>27</sup> *The Zionist Record*, June 22, 1956, p.14., September, 26, 1958, p.10., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 21, 1960, p.4.

<sup>28</sup> *The Zionist Record*, March 1, 1957, p.20.

<sup>29</sup> Minutes of the 57th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 5th February, 1958, at 5.15 pm., p.3.

South Africa extensively on her return, addressing innumerable meetings on the seminar which she had attended.<sup>30</sup> Her untimely passing on October 6, 1959, was a grievous loss to the League,<sup>31</sup> which mourned her demise at a special memorial meeting<sup>32</sup> and perpetuated her memory by endowing a cot in her name at the Mothercraft Training Centre in Tel Aviv.<sup>33</sup> Fitting recognition of the services rendered to Zionism by Mrs R. Silbert was reflected in her selection as a participant in the 1959/60 Key Workers Seminar which was organised by the Jewish Agency in Israel.<sup>34</sup>

The Natal Provincial Committee of the Women's Zionist Council was drawn from amongst the League's members, and the Provincial Convener, Mrs R. Silbert, and office bearers of the League, therefore maintained a keen interest in the activities of Zionist women in Natal. Particularly close contact was maintained with the Pietermaritzburg Women's Zionist Society and frequent visits were made by representatives of the League to Pietermaritzburg in order to strengthen

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<sup>30</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.12] (August, 1958), 7., *The Zionist Record*, August 22, 1958, p.16.

<sup>31</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 11.

<sup>32</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, November 27, 1959, p.15.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, January 15, 1960, p.14.

<sup>34</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 12, 13, 15, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77.



and reinforce these ties.<sup>35</sup>

The emphasis of the League's activities remained fixed on fundraising, particularly in respect of the Jewish National Fund, WIZO, and Youth *Aliyah* which were the specific concern of women Zionists in South Africa.

Each aspect of J.N.F. work, namely Blue Box clearances, tree drives and the sale of inscriptions were carried out by separate sub-committees each with their own convener,<sup>36</sup> and work in these areas continued unabated from year to year.<sup>37</sup>

Highlights of the League's fundraising efforts on behalf of the *Keren Kayemeth* included a concert by Larry Adler, the world famous harmonica player,<sup>38</sup> and a gala ball in September, 1956;<sup>39</sup> a performance by the

<sup>35</sup> See *The Zionist Record*, January 13, 1956, p.15., *The Natal Mercury*, April 10, 1957, p.11., *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 70., *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 53., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 29, 1961, p.9.

<sup>36</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 23, 1958, p.14., May 8, 1959, p.19.

<sup>37</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.1] (September, 1957), 69., *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1958), 49., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

<sup>38</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, September 11, 1956, p.9.

<sup>39</sup> *The Zionist Record*, October 12, 1956, p.15.

well known actor, David Kosseff, in March 1957;<sup>40</sup> a gala show of Israeli fashions modelled by Israel's foremost mannequins which was held at the City Hall, under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress of Durban, in July, 1957,<sup>41</sup> and which coincided with the Israel Week which was mounted by the Zionist Council for Natal;<sup>42</sup> two musical functions, in 1958, which featured Miss Hannah Aharoni, and Mr Ivry Gitlis and Miss Varda Nishri;<sup>43</sup> a concert on July 1, 1959, which starred the internationally famous opera singers Adele Leigh and James Pease;<sup>44</sup> a debutantes' ball that same month, attended by the Israeli Consul General, Mr G. Doron and Mrs Doron;<sup>45</sup> a donor dinner, in July, 1960, featuring the Israeli singer, Sharon Aron<sup>46</sup> and a celebrity concert starring Dorothy Avrich, of Durban, and Mr Bob Borowsky, of Johannesburg, which was held in August, 1961.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 13.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 29., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 15.

<sup>42</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>43</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51.

<sup>44</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 19.

<sup>45</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, August 14, 1959, p.20.

<sup>46</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 7.

<sup>47</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Mason, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st August, 1961, at 8 pm., p.5.

Efforts to increase the sale of inscriptions in the various volumes of the J.N.F., namely the Golden Book, *Sefer Hageled*, *Sefer Barmitzvaah* and *Sefer Batmitzvaah*, led to infrequent functions being arranged by the League at which presentations of inscriptions were made to members of the community who had been honoured in this manner.<sup>48</sup> During 1957, a special Golden Book Inscriptions Drive was held by the League to commemorate the Sinai Campaign. Individuals and organisations were solicited for contributions towards inscribing the name of the victorious Israel Defence Force.<sup>49</sup>

The League's work on behalf of WIZO was principally channeled into the annual WIZO Fete, which was always amongst the highlights of its fundraising ventures. The fetes, to which not only the Jewish community but all residents of Durban looked forward with keen anticipation, remained very much a community project. The efforts of the League's branches continued to be complimented throughout this period by the unflagging support and assistance of the Durban Zionist Association, the Synagogue Women's Guild, *Magen David Adon*, the Sisterhood

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<sup>48</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59., *Heshalom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 29.

<sup>49</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69.

of Temple David and the Union of Jewish Women.<sup>50</sup>

The sewing and knitting of garments, suitable for distribution through WIZO, remained a serious preoccupation of each of the League's branches.<sup>51</sup> These garments, together with the clothing that was collected during the twice yearly clothing drives, was packed and dispatched by the women, under the direction of Mrs Cissie Fielding, who, by 1961, had worked for 27 years in this department.<sup>52</sup> At the 14th South African Women's Zionist Conference in August, 1961, Mrs Fielding was suitably honoured for her tireless efforts in this regard when her services were marked by the endowment of a cot in her name at the Mothercraft Training and Child Care Centre.<sup>53</sup>

In September 1960, the League paid tribute to WIZO on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, by arranging a display of hand embroidered Yemenite clothing, and

<sup>50</sup> *The Zionist Record*, December 28, 1956, p.7., April 3, 1958, p.10., December 12, 1958, p.13., *The Natal Mercury*, November 27, 1959, p.10., *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 41., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 22, 1961, p.13.

<sup>51</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78.

<sup>53</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 1, 1961, p.14.

organised a concert.<sup>54</sup> Some months earlier, in 1959, the League had arranged suitable celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of Youth *Aliyah*,<sup>55</sup> which, together with WIZO, remained the principal beneficiary of the Women's Biennial Zionist Campaign. The importance of this Campaign, which was conducted in Natal by League members, lay in the fact that its beneficiaries received no funds from the men's I.U.A., and were therefore entirely dependent upon the generosity of the women for their income from South Africa.

The Women's Biennial Campaign was launched in Durban in 1956, at a reception at the Jewish Club, addressed by Dr Deborah Sagorsky, the Honorary Life Vice-President of the Women's Zionist Council.<sup>56</sup> It was initiated in Pietermaritzburg by Mrs Millie Broomberg, an Honorary Life President of the Durban Women's Zionist League, and Mrs Anne Savell, the campaign convener for Natal.<sup>57</sup> For its inauguration in Northern Rhodesia, Mrs R. Silbert, the Natal Provincial Chair, accompanied Mrs L. Friedman, the Provincial Chair for Rhodesia, on her campaign tour.<sup>58</sup> In 1958, the Campaign was launched in Durban by Mrs Fay Doron,

<sup>54</sup>*The Natal Daily News*, September 15, 1960, p.11.

<sup>55</sup>*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 18, 1961, p.15.

<sup>56</sup>*The Zionist Record*, June 11, 1956, p.11.

<sup>57</sup>*Ibid.*, May 25, 1956, p.15.

<sup>58</sup>*Ibid.*

the wife of the Israeli Consul General<sup>59</sup> and two years later by Mrs Hemdah Zinder, a broadcaster from Israel.<sup>60</sup>

Whilst fundraising served as a principal preoccupation of the League, due importance was also given to educational work, through the holding of regular cultural functions which were consistently well attended. Wherever it was possible the League sought to link up its educational work with its various fundraising activities.

The cultural activities of the League were both numerous and varied and included lectures, play readings, book reviews, talks, film shows and living newspapers. Many of these functions were held under joint auspices

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<sup>59</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 31.,  
*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1]  
(September, 1958), 51.

<sup>60</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 37.,  
*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1]  
(September, 1960), 78.

with the Union of Jewish Women,<sup>61</sup> with whom the League maintained extremely cordial relations. Indicative of the cordiality between these two organisations was the League's gesture of planting 21 trees in Israel, to mark the 21st anniversary of the Union's Durban branch in 1958.<sup>62</sup> Among the visiting personalities who addressed the League were a group of Israeli mannequins,<sup>63</sup> General Moshe Dayan,<sup>64</sup> and Matron Zaggagi of Tel Hashomer

<sup>61</sup> Including a function in honour of Mrs Fay Doron, wife of the Israeli Consul General, (*Haskolom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 31.) a luncheon in honour of Mrs Ruth Dayan, (*The Zionist Record*, September 20, 1957, p.14.) an address by Miss Sallie Kussell, the National Organising Secretary of the Union of Jewish Women. (*Ibid.*, October 16, 1957, p.15.) an address by Mr Bernard Cherrick, the Director of the Department of Organisation and Information of the Hebrew University, (*Haskolom*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 19 and 21.) a function to mark Israel's 10th *Yom Haatzmaut*, (*Haskolom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 31.) an address by Mr Yehuda Medivi, the Town Clerk of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, (*Ibid.*) a talk by Mr Sam Ernst, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 33.) a reception for Mrs Salmon, wife of the Israeli Minister Plenipotentiary, (*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, June 10, 1960, p.15.) a function in August, 1960, to mark Book Month, (*Haskolom*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 43.) and a further talk by Mr S. Ernst (*Ibid.*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 47.).

<sup>62</sup> *The Zionist Record*, August 22, 1958, p.16.

<sup>63</sup> *Haskolom*, XXXV No.11 (July, 1957), 15.

<sup>64</sup> *Haskolom Bosh Haskonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49.

Hospital,<sup>65</sup> whilst the list of local speakers who participated in the cultural activities of the League included Dr M. Natas, the Cultural Officer of the Zionist Federation,<sup>66</sup> Mr A. Levine,<sup>67</sup> Mrs R. Silbert,<sup>68</sup> Mr I. Fisher,<sup>69</sup> Mr I. Goss,<sup>70</sup> Mrs M. Levitas<sup>71</sup> and Mr S. Ernst.<sup>72</sup> The League's many diverse activities included Jewish Child Day's functions,<sup>73</sup> and functions to mark Israel's Independence Day.<sup>74</sup> In December 1961, at a *Chanukah* function organised by the League an official farewell was bade to its Secretary, Mrs M. Bierman, who was leaving with her family on

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77..

<sup>66</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 24, 1957, p.17., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1959), 31., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49.

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 50., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49.

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77.

<sup>72</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

<sup>73</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on 21st September, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77-78., *The Natal Daily News*, April 21, 1961, p.14.



aliyah.<sup>75</sup>

A highlight of the League's cultural activities was the inauguration of the Henrietta Szold Memorial Lecture in 1961, the centenary of her birth. Intended as an annual event by its sponsors, the A. and T. Alper Trust, the first memorial lecture was delivered by Mr A. Super, the editor of *The Zionist Record*, who, in an address on "Challenge and Fulfillment," paid tribute to the memory of Miss Szold.<sup>76</sup>

Of enormous cultural significance for the members of the League was the creation of two Bible study groups for young married women, which met under the guidance of Mr S. Ernst, the Regional Director of Jewish Education. Formed on the recommendation of Miss Doreen Guinsberg, the Educational Organiser of the Women's Zionist Council, who had been in Durban in 1961 in order to participate in a seminar entitled "The Army of Israel,"<sup>77</sup> these groups thrived and continued throughout this period to

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<sup>75</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, December 29, 1961, p.9.

<sup>76</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 26th June, 1961, at 8 pm., p.3., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

<sup>77</sup> Zionist Council for Natal, Report of the Zionist Council for Natal. To be submitted to the Fifth Natal Provincial Zionist Conference, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on 26/27th May, 1956, p.4.

meet on a regular basis.<sup>78</sup> Evidence of the knowledge which the members acquired from their study groups was revealed in the fine manner in which they acquitted themselves in the annual Bible Quiz, arranged by the Durban Zionist Association,<sup>79</sup> a team from the Ridge Road Study Group actually winning the Quiz in 1961.<sup>80</sup> A further discussion group concerned with Zionist issues was formed from amongst the members of the League in 1961, and it, too, flourished and enjoyed considerable popularity amongst the women.<sup>81</sup>

The work of the Women's Zionist League, although somewhat regulated by circumstances, and prescribed by external influences, nevertheless was of sufficient interest and diversity to enable it to retain the loyalty and support of its constantly increasing membership. Fanned by the overwhelming Zionist sentiment of the community the Jewish women of Durban sought, through the League, to answer the constant call for financial assistance that was made on Diaspora Jewry, and to stimulate, with the cultural fare offered, the members

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<sup>78</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 68., *Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

<sup>79</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 77., *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 29.

<sup>80</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 10.

<sup>81</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

of the League.

Alongside the Durban Zionist Association and the Durban Women's Zionist League, the Zionist political parties in Durban continued to enjoy representation on the Zionist Council for Natal although, as elsewhere in South Africa, the strength of the Zionist political parties and their corresponding activity diminished considerably in this period.<sup>82</sup> In part this resulted from the fact that no Zionist elections were held after 1952, largely owing to the objections of the non-party Zionists.<sup>83</sup> In Durban this state of affairs was also attributable to the basic apolitical nature of the community's Zionists, as was borne out by the politically unaffiliated nature of the Durban Zionist Association and the Women's Zionist League and the Constitution of the Zionist Council which was not determined on a political basis.

Zionist political activity in Durban was maintained largely by the continued existence and activities of the branches of the United Revisionist Party and the Men's and Women's *Misraahí*. In the case of the former, its involvement in Council affairs ended temporarily in 1957, when the Revisionist Party was suspended from the Zionist Federation for conducting a nationwide fundraising campaign in that same year, in defiance of a resolution

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<sup>82</sup> Gideon Shimoni, *Jews and Zionism: The South African Experience 1910-1987*, (Cape Town, 1980), p.251.

<sup>83</sup> *Ibid.*

adopted at the 24th South African Zionist Conference in 1956, which prohibited separate campaigns by parties affiliated to the Federation.<sup>84</sup> Although soundly condemned by the Zionist Council for Natal and the Council of Natal Jewry, this campaign, in connection with which Mr Menachem Begin was brought to South Africa, nevertheless aroused a considerable measure of local support, demonstrating that the Party was not without its sympathisers in Durban. A testimony to the organised state of the Revisionist Party in Durban lay in its ability to raise a not inconsiderable amount of money from its members and sympathisers without issuing an appeal for funds at Mr Begin's meeting, in conformity with the conditions laid down by the Jewish Club in regard to the meeting.<sup>85</sup>

After 1957, the *Misrachi* therefore remained the sole active political party on the Zionist Council, although it was, in fact, far more concerned with the advancement and propagation of Orthodox Judaism which it espoused, than it was with political affairs.

Consisting of a small but dedicated band of men and women the local *Misrachi* organisation demonstrated surprising vitality. Its *Tanach* Study Circle which continued to meet weekly at the St. Andrew's Street

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<sup>84</sup> See above pp. 1466-1467.

<sup>85</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 7th November, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7.

Synagogue, under the direction of the Rev. A.M. Kaplan, remained a highlight of the *Mizrachi's* activities.<sup>86</sup>

Following the Rev. Kaplan's departure from Durban in 1961, the Study Circle was directed by Rabbi Dr Shrock,<sup>87</sup> who had, from the time of his arrival in Durban in 1956, evinced a keen interest in the *Mizrachi* organisation and its activities.

The close bond that existed between the Rabbi and the members of *Mizrachi* was forged at an official welcome which the organisation arranged for the Rabbi and his wife shortly after their arrival in Durban,<sup>88</sup> and was reinforced by the Rabbi's acceptance of the position of an Honorary President of the Durban *Mizrachi*<sup>89</sup> and by his association with it in its work. The Rabbi's bond with the Party was further strengthened by the support and involvement of members of *Mizrachi* in the Durban *Cheura Gemara*, which was created by the Rabbi in 1957,<sup>90</sup> to

<sup>86</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.1] (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 53., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 74., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 76.

<sup>88</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 19th December, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>89</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 29.

<sup>90</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.2] (October, 1958), 5.

further the study of *Talmud*,<sup>91</sup> and by their participation in all matters of synagogal life.

*Misra'chi* functions, for the main part, continued to be held to coincide with the major Jewish festivals,<sup>92</sup> thereby heightening the community's awareness and involvement in the Jewish holy days. Lectures, too, continued to be an important part of the *Misra'chi*'s cultural programme. Among the visitors who came to Durban to address the members and their guests were Rabbi Dr M. Kossowsky of Johannesburg,<sup>93</sup> and Rabbi Kopul Kahana, a Professor of Rabbinics from London, who spoke on "The Jewish System of Jurisprudence."<sup>94</sup> Of major importance for the small band of *Misra'chi* members in Durban was the visit of Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, the President of the *Misra'chi* Organisation of America and a member of the Jewish Agency, and Mrs Kirshblum, in

<sup>91</sup> *The South African Jewish Times*, January 2, 1959, p.19., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

<sup>92</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *The Zionist Record*, October 19, 1956, p.16., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Haskalom*, [XXXVI No.6] (February, 1958), 31 and 33., *Haskalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 33., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1960), 74.

<sup>93</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, on Monday, 23rd July, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

<sup>94</sup> Minutes of the 9th Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, on Wednesday, 1st August, 1956, at 5.15 pm., p.3.

May 1961.<sup>95</sup> The Rabbi's visit gave invaluable encouragement to the members of the Durban *Mizrachi*, who, together with the C.N.J. and the Zionist Council for Natal, held a reception in his honour at the *Marine Hotel*,<sup>96</sup> the involvement of the community's two premier communal bodies adding, no doubt, to the significance and prestige of the occasion.

Under the leadership of Mrs N. Smith, who served as chairlady until her untimely death in 1961,<sup>97</sup> the Durban Women's *Mizrachi* Organisation continued to work closely with its men's section, holding joint functions and arranging catering whenever necessary.<sup>98</sup> Apart from organising several fundraising and cultural functions the Women's *Mizrachi* spent a great deal of its time raising funds for the Achuzat Sara Home for orphans in Israel, which was opened in 1958, and was the project of the

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<sup>95</sup> Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 15th May, 1961, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>96</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 27, 1961, p.5., May 30, 1961, p.4.

<sup>97</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

<sup>98</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.6 (February, 1958), 31 and 33., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.11] (July, 1958), 33., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 53.

Women's *Mizrachi* Organisation in South Africa,<sup>99</sup>

All the members of the Zionist Council shared the community's interest in its youth and took particular pleasure in the functioning of the Natal Zionist Youth Executive. Consisting of representatives of *Habonim* and the Student Jewish Association, the Executive had been revived in 1955,<sup>100</sup> as a result of a visit to Durban by the secretary of the Youth Council, Aubrey Hurwitz, and the *Habonim's shaliach*, Michael Cohen.<sup>101</sup> Unable to induce the Youth Section of the Jewish Club to become affiliated, the Youth Executive had, by 1956, consequently found itself with very little to do, especially once the S.J.A. had temporarily ceased to function.<sup>102</sup>

The Council's express desire to co-ordinate youth work in Durban and Natal was to a large extent, nevertheless, being accomplished by the Standing Youth Sub-Committee of the C.N.J., on which body the Youth

<sup>99</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 53., *Hasholom*, XXXVII No.6 (February, 1959), 29., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 74.

<sup>100</sup> Minutes of the Zionist Council for Natal Meeting, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, April 25th, 1955, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>101</sup> *The Zionist Record South African Menorah Section*, March 25, 1955, p.1.

<sup>102</sup> Minutes of the Zionist Council Meeting, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 16th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.3.



Executive and its constituents enjoyed representation. In 1956, the Youth Sub-Committee succeeded in bringing representatives of the youth, including the Youth Executive, together on to an editorial board which published a *News Sheet* for the youth.<sup>103</sup> This in turn paved the way for the creation that same year of the Natal Jewish Youth Council.<sup>104</sup> The principal difference between the Youth Council and the Zionist Youth Executive appears to have been the latter's Zionist emphasis, because of which the Youth Section of the Club had rejected affiliation. By joining with representatives of *Habonim* and the Student Jewish Association to constitute the Youth Council's initial members,<sup>105</sup> the Club's Youth Section widened the scope of the Youth Council and ensured that it did not fall prey to the same problem which had brought about the Youth Executive's demise. It also opened the way for other youth groups to seek affiliation.

The Zionist Council, which enjoyed representation on the Youth Council,<sup>106</sup> gave it both moral and financial

<sup>103</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.10 (July, 1956), 27.

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 23.

<sup>105</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th 1957, at 8 pm., p.4

<sup>106</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.7.

assistance,<sup>107</sup> not only because the Zionist youth groups were amongst its members but because it also wished to identify with the community in its efforts to direct and organise the Jewish youth of Durban. In 1959, the Zionist Council welcomed the Youth Council's decision to affiliate to the South African Zionist Youth Council,<sup>108</sup> and it was with considerable regret that it watched the demise and ultimate disbandment of the Youth Council in December 1961, through inadequate support.<sup>109</sup>

Among the Zionist youth organisations which were affiliated to the Youth Council, the largest and most active was *Habonim*, which remained aloof from Zionist political affairs and continued to enjoy the full support and co-operation of all sections of the community.

This pre-eminent position which *Habonim* enjoyed in the community was greatly fostered by the Friends of *Habonim*, which acted as an effective liason between the *Habonim* and the adult Jewish community through

<sup>107</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.5.

<sup>108</sup> Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 25th May, 1959, p.5.

<sup>109</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 8th February, 1962, at 8 pm., p.2.

its membership of both the Zionist Council and the C.N.J.<sup>110</sup> The Friends furthermore assisted the Movement in such matters as finance, transport to and from functions, and in subsidising participants in seminars and camps. It also contributed to the fund set up by the C.N.J. to send Jewish youth on study courses to Israel.<sup>111</sup> The Friends derived its income principally from the subscriptions paid by members who, whilst never more than 150 in number,<sup>112</sup> made up for their limited numbers by their disproportionately large practical and moral contribution to *Habonim's* advancement in Durban.

*Habonim's* standing in the community was further cemented by its willingness to work in close harmony with the adult organisations and to participate in their various activities. It joined, for example, with the members of the Durban Women's Zionist League in organising the Jewish Child Day functions<sup>113</sup> and assisted the League during Tree and Clothing Drives on behalf of the J.N.F.<sup>114</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> *Haskalah Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 75., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 49., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on 1st September, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3., *Haskalah Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 76.

Members of *Habonim* participated annually in the *Yom Haatzmaut* celebrations organised by the Zionist Council,<sup>115</sup> and were conspicuous by their presence and contribution at the Council's Biennial Conferences.<sup>116</sup> Without an official religious bias *Habonim* participated in services at both the Progressive<sup>117</sup> and Orthodox Congregations,<sup>118</sup> respective places of worship.

*Habonim* assumed its share of communal responsibility by joining other local organisations in inscribing the Israel Defence Force in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund,<sup>119</sup> by extending hospitality to visiting Israeli seamen,<sup>120</sup> and by raising funds to aid the

<sup>115</sup> *Haholom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 29., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 5 and 9., *The Zionist Record*, May 9, 1958, p.12., May 29, 1959, p.18.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*, June 22, 1956, p.14., September 26, 1958, p.10., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, September 21, 1960, p.4.

<sup>117</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 12th May, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.

<sup>118</sup> *Haholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, (XL No.1) (September, 1961), 75.

<sup>119</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 29th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>120</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th May, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 28th November, 1960, at 8 pm., p.6.

Rumanian *aliyah* in 1959.<sup>121</sup> In keeping with its image of the community's youth organisation, the members of Durban *Habonim* joined with members from other parts of South Africa in participating in the celebrations which were held in Bloemfontein in 1960, to mark the 50th anniversary of the Union of South Africa.<sup>122</sup> It also raised funds to help the needy Black residents of Cato Manor, whose future was surrounded with uncertainty.<sup>123</sup>

*Habonim* maintained cordial relations too with other youth organisations and groups with which it served on the Natal Jewish Youth Council. Together with members of the Youth Council it held joint activities such as the youth *Yom Haatzmaut* sport day in 1958,<sup>124</sup> a *Chanukah* celebration in 1958,<sup>125</sup> and a joint sports function in April 1961.<sup>126</sup>

The Movement's principal focus of interest naturally lay within its own ranks which, in terms of numbers,

<sup>121</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>122</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th June, 1960, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>123</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th July, 1960, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>124</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 9, 1958, p.12.

<sup>125</sup> *Hakhalom*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 45.

<sup>126</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 17th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.

remained fairly constant throughout this period, the membership in Durban averaging 230.<sup>127</sup> Evidence of internal development was to be found in the implementation of the decision taken at National Conference (*Moatzah*), in 1961, that the *Bonim Shichvah* be divided into separate *Sh'chavot*, the *Bonim* and *Sollelim*, each with their own education programme.<sup>128</sup> Further evidence lay in the emergence, that same year, of a Durban North *Shtilim* group, which met at the Ilana Nursery School,<sup>129</sup> and fared far better than a similar group which had been set up in the same area some years previously.<sup>130</sup>

Under the direction of a band of devoted *madrachim*,

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<sup>127</sup> See *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>128</sup> *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 75.

<sup>130</sup> See above pp.1012-1013.

who were guided by a succession of competent *hakoach*,<sup>131</sup> the Durban Movement ran an effective and informative educational programme. Apart from the functions organised by the individual units, highlights of the Movement's activities included the celebration of the Jewish holidays, notably *Purim*<sup>132</sup> and *Pesach*,<sup>133</sup> the

<sup>131</sup> Kenny Beck, (Minutes of the 3rd Actions Committee Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Wednesday, 13th June, 1956, p.1.) Joel Klotz, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 21st January, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3.) Dave Levin, (Minutes of the 4th Council Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 19th January, 1959, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.) Cedric Shapiro, (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 20th March, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.).

<sup>132</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 17th March, 1958, at 8 pm., p.3., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th February, 1961, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>133</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 29th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 17th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.4.

annual fete,<sup>134</sup> and the *Prutah Avodah* project<sup>135</sup> (Bob-a-job week), which was of outstanding educational value and not merely a fundraising scheme. Camping and scout craft remained a vital part of the activities of Durban *Habonim* and whenever possible local seminars and camps were held at the David Hillman Park.<sup>136</sup> Visitors to the Durban Movement included Mr Joe Lucatz,

<sup>134</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4., *The Zionist Record*, November 21, 1956, p.2., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 16th September, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on the 17th August, 1959, at 8 pm., p.5., *The Natal Daily News*, September 10, 1960, p.4.

<sup>135</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6., *Haskalah Bosh Haskalah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 16th May, 1960, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>136</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th May, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6., *Haskalah Bosh Haskalah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 17th October, 1960, at 8 pm., p.5., *Haskalah Bosh Haskalah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 75.



the Johannesburg *Habonim Shaliach*,<sup>137</sup>  
 Brigadier Yigal Allon,<sup>138</sup> Mr H. Evian of the J.N.F.  
 office in Johannesburg,<sup>139</sup> Yoav Tilbon, the *Habonim*  
*Shaliach* for the Western Province,<sup>140</sup> Zvi Jaspan<sup>141</sup> and  
 Mr Jeff Fabian a *Kibbutz Shaliach*.<sup>142</sup>

In 1958, *Habonim* suffered a severe loss through the  
 destruction by fire of the youth *bayit* which had served  
 as a venue for all its meetings.<sup>143</sup> Although this  
 caused a temporary disruption to the Movement's  
 activities<sup>144</sup> the community rallied to *Habonim's*

<sup>137</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for  
 Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 21st May, 1956,  
 at 8 pm., p.2.

<sup>138</sup> *The Zionist Record*, June 29, 1956, p.3.

<sup>139</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for  
 Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building,  
 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday,  
 16th September, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>140</sup> *Hasholom Roah Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1  
 (September, 1957), 69.

<sup>141</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for  
 Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday,  
 17th March, 1958, at 8 pm., p.3., Minutes of the  
 15th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the  
 Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*,  
 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday,  
 4th March, 1959. at 5.15 pm., pp.2-3.

<sup>142</sup> Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Executive  
 Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held  
 at the *Maon*, on 4th October, 1961, at 5.15 pm.,  
 p.2.

<sup>143</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for  
 Natal, held on the 17th February, 1958, at 8 pm.,  
 at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade,  
 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.4.

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*

assistance and the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, the Durban United Hebrew Schools and the Temple David hastily made temporary premises available for meetings.<sup>145</sup> The Movement was thereby enabled to continue functioning with little break in momentum. Within a few months *Habonim* was permanently housed in a new *bayit* in Silverton Road, opposite the Sharona Nursery School, which was owned by the Durban United Hebrew Congregation.<sup>146</sup> This *bayit* was acquired by a private company and was let to *Habonim* at a monthly rental, to which the Zionist Council, the C.N.J., the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, the Friends of *Habonim* and other adult bodies generously contributed,<sup>147</sup> thereby testifying to the widespread communal interest in the Movement's wellbeing.

The loss by fire of the youth *bayit* proved quite incapable of dampening the celebrations which were held during 1958, to mark the Silver Jubilee of Durban *Habonim*, the climax of which were an investiture ceremony, concert and reception which was held at the Durban Jewish Club.<sup>148</sup>

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<sup>145</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 27th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 3rd April, 1958, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>146</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th August, 1958, p.5.

<sup>147</sup> *Ibid.*, *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 75., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61.

As part of a nationwide organisation great interest was naturally also shown by the Durban Movement in its sister branches in Natal, where a vibrant branch was maintained in Vryheid,<sup>149</sup> and a smaller, less active, group was run in Pietermaritzburg.<sup>150</sup>

Links with the National Movement were maintained too, principally through the participation of Durban *chaverim*, in National *Moatzot* (Conferences)<sup>151</sup> and the

<sup>149</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>150</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 75., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>151</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 29th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.6., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on the 17th August, 1959, at 8 pm., p.5., Minutes of the 7th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 15th May, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

involvement of local members in the Movement's national camps<sup>152</sup> and national seminars.<sup>153</sup> These links were affirmed in June 1956, when Durban *Habonim* held a highly successful concert to mark the Silver Jubilee of *Habonim* in South Africa.<sup>154</sup>

In 1959, Durban *Habonim* was represented at the historic national conference at which amendments were made to the official aims of the Movement and a platform and educational programme approved, which has remained largely in force to this day. In essence the platform which was formulated affirmed the independence and educational autonomy of *Habonim*, as well as the right of every member to his own religious and political

<sup>152</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st January, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 27th January, 1958, at 8 pm., p.5., Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 19th January, 1959, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 8th February, 1960, at 8 pm., p.9., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 29th January, 1961, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>153</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban on Monday, 18th August, 1958, p.4., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th July, 1960, at 8 pm., p.4., *Heshalom Koch* *Heshalom* Annual, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 75.

<sup>154</sup> *The Zionist Record South African Menorah Section*, June 29, 1956, p.3.

convictions, whilst at the same time the goal of *shalutz aliyah* was affirmed as the highest challenge facing the members of the Movement. At the national conference the name of the Movement in South Africa was changed to *Ichud Habonim*, in line with the name adopted by World *Habonim*, following its merger with other international Jewish youth movements.<sup>155</sup> On the local level this development was paralleled in South Africa by the merger of *Habonim* and the smaller junior youth movement of the Zionist Socialist Party known as *Dror*.<sup>156</sup> In 1961, the name of the National Movement was changed once again in consequence of the union which was attained, after lengthy negotiations, with *Bnei Zion*, the youth movement of the former United Zionist Party.<sup>157</sup> Renamed *Ichud Habonim Bnei Zion* the Movement adopted a new uniform to mark this event in its development.<sup>158</sup>

These developments did not in any way affect the aims or policies of the Movement which remained focused on Zionism and the fostering of *aliyah*. In a society in which the recognition of the merit of *aliyah* was coupled with a deep attachment to life in South Africa, *Habonim* emphasised settlement in Israel and more

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<sup>155</sup> Gideon Shimoni, "Habonim: An Historical Perspective" in *Ichud Habonim Golden Jubilee 1930-1980*, (Johannesburg, 1980), p.18.

<sup>156</sup> Gideon Shimoni, *Jews and Zionism*, p.261.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>158</sup> *HashaLom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

especially on *kibbuts*. The concept of *absolute aliyah* which was adopted at the 1959 *Motzaah* as the highest challenge facing members was the goal towards which the Movement educated its *chanichim*.<sup>159</sup>

Apart from the overwhelming Zionist content of its programmes *Babonim* fostered a spirit of affection for the State of Israel by encouraging its senior members to participate in courses of varying duration in Israel.<sup>160</sup> These courses not only inspired the participants, many of whom ultimately went on *aliyah*, but provided them with leadership skills which, on their return to Durban, benefitted the Movement and the cause which it espoused. Apart from those who attended the *Machon Hachoref* courses during the summer holidays,<sup>161</sup> five members, namely, Keith Greenberg, Sharon Ernst, Edna Miller, Morris Zimmerman and Leslie Strous, attended the year-long *Machon* programme in Israel in 1957.<sup>162</sup>

The effectiveness of the Movement's education was reflected in the high proportion of *madrichim* who went on *aliyah* and who, by their personal example, set a high

<sup>159</sup> Gideon Shimoni, *Jews and Zionism*, pp.262-163.

<sup>160</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th 1957, at 8 pm., p.4., *Hachalom Rosah Hachonah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 77.

<sup>161</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>162</sup> *Hachalom*, [XXXVI No.6] (April, 1958), 11.

standard for their colleagues to emulate.<sup>163</sup> In their *aliyah*, and the fulfillment of the Movement's highest challenge, senior *madrickim* who left Durban, took with them their skills and experience and caused a void in the ranks of the leadership which was not always easy to fill.<sup>164</sup> This was in effect, however, a small price to be paid by a Zionist Youth Movement which prided itself on the example provided by its leaders.

Secure in the heart of the community which regarded as its youth movement *Iahud Babonim Bnei Zion*, although it constituted only roughly one fifth of the community's eligible youth,<sup>165</sup> as the largest organised youth group nevertheless enjoyed an almost unrivalled dominance in youth matters in Durban. Cognisant of the special relationship which it had with the community the Movement played its part in communal life and at the same time successfully advanced the Zionist philosophy around

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<sup>163</sup> They included Kenny Beck (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 27th January, 1958, at 8 pm., p.5.) Joel and Myra Klotz (nee Gesben), Judy Kessel (nee Stone) (*HashaLom Roah Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 61.) Simcha and Senta Frame, (*Ibid.*, 59.) Keith Greenberg, Nirith Hadany, Leon Bierman, Sharon Ernst, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 75.) David and Deborah Gesben (nee Hadany) and Geoff Tollman (*Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 70.

<sup>164</sup> Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 4th March, 1959, at 5.15 pm., pp.2-3.

<sup>165</sup> *HashaLom Roah Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 78.

which its programmes were structured.

In contrast to the community's favourable attitude towards *Habonim*, the attempts to establish a *Setar* (Revisionist Youth) Group in Durban, in 1956, met with an icy reception from the Zionist Council.<sup>166</sup> As a non-political body the Council not only opposed political indoctrination of its youth, but also harboured little enthusiasm or support for the ideology of the Revisionist Party. The Council was, nevertheless, powerless to prevent *Setar* from organising activities in Durban and under the leadership of Mr Ralph Freedman a small *Setar* group, whose members ranged from 13 to 16 years of age, took root in the City.<sup>167</sup>

Little support or encouragement was, however, shown by the Zionist Council towards the *Setar* group, which, whilst engaged in lengthy negotiations for use of the youth *bayit*, held its meetings in private residences.<sup>168</sup> With the consent of the Council of Natal Jewry, the Zionist Council finally granted *Setar* permission to use the *Maon* on Sunday mornings.<sup>169</sup> *Setar's* application for

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<sup>166</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, on Monday, 27th August, 1956, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>167</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 25th March, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4.

<sup>168</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>169</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 29th April, 1957, at 8 pm., p.4.



representation on the Zionist Council was also met with considerable delays, principally because of the separate campaign for funds which was conducted by the Revisionist Party in 1957, in defiance of the Zionist Federation.<sup>170</sup> Once it had been agreed by the Zionist Federation to allow the Movement to remain on the Zionist Youth Council,<sup>171</sup> the application by *Setar* for representation on the Zionist Council was finally granted in October 1957.<sup>172</sup> This was followed not long afterwards by the Movement's admittance to the Natal Jewish Youth Council which co-ordinated the youth activities of the community.<sup>173</sup>

Although numerically small the Durban *Setar* Group, was, nevertheless, quite active. During the 1957/58 summer holiday a small delegation attended the annual

<sup>170</sup> Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 3rd June, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>171</sup> Minutes of the 42nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal held, at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 7th August, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>172</sup> Minutes of the 49th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 30th October, 1957, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>173</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 1.45 pm., p.5.

*Setar* camp,<sup>174</sup> and no doubt greatly benefited from the interaction with members of the Movement from other parts of the country. It entertained the World Head of the *Setar* Executive during his brief visit to Durban in 1958;<sup>175</sup> participated, that same year, in a flag party which followed the special *Yom Haatzmaut* service in the Park Street Synagogue;<sup>176</sup> held a Jabotinsky Memorial Meeting in July 1958;<sup>177</sup> and in October 1958, entertained the *Setar Shal'ach*, Mr Kadishai and Mrs Kadishai.<sup>178</sup> Regular meetings continued to be conducted on a weekly basis and in mid-1958 the Movement acquired a new meeting place in Albany Grove, in the centre of town, the expenditure involved being met by private individuals.<sup>179</sup>

Although it enjoyed representation on the communal bodies to which it was eligible, shared where possible in communal life, and received considerable financial

<sup>174</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 27th January, 1958, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>175</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on the 17th February, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.5.

<sup>176</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 12th May, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.

<sup>177</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 18th August, 1958, p.5.

<sup>178</sup> *Zionist Digest*, XVI No.1 (September, 1958), 11.

<sup>179</sup> *Ibid.*

assistance from individual supporters of the Revisionist Party, and ran a full and varied programme of activities, the *Betar* Movement, nevertheless, failed to take deep root in the City. Neither was it able to make serious inroads into the *Habonim*-dominated Zionist youth scene in Durban. The antipathy of the Zionist Council towards it, coupled with the general suspicion of Revisionism amongst the community's Zionist leaders and the long standing support shown by the community for the non-political *Habonim* Movement, all combined to retard its development.

*Betar* with its clearly defined political ideology, was by its very nature only capable of attracting to its ranks those who shared its beliefs. In a community in which a non-political Zionist Council was dominant in Zionist affairs, few therefore came forward to enlist in it.<sup>180</sup> *Habonim*, on the other hand, because it had no political ties was able to attract all those who wished to identify with Israel and who, notwithstanding the clear *aliyah* ideology of the Movement, in broadly defined terms regarded themselves as Zionists. *Habonim* was also able to draw into its ranks those who simply desired a channel through which to express and affirm their Jewishness. The *Betar* Movement, was furthermore, enormously dependent

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<sup>180</sup> The membership in early 1957 stood at 15 (Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Building, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 25th March, 1957, p.4.) and by late 1958 its membership roll stood at 13. (*Zionist Digest*, XVI No.1 [September, 1958], 11.

For its continued survival on the commitment and presence of its leader, who had few, if any, contemporaries to draw on for support and assistance. Although *Setar* continued to remain active on the local scene throughout 1959,<sup>181</sup> during 1960, its activities diminished somewhat, its presence at meetings of the Zionist Council becoming increasingly less frequent,<sup>182</sup> and by 1961, it had ceased functioning altogether.<sup>183</sup>

The demise of *Setar* in Durban affirmed *Habonim's* pre-eminence in Zionist youth affairs in Durban, and appeared to confirm the belief that was held in certain quarters that the community had need for only one Zionist youth movement. Whilst its disbandment might have been viewed with little regret by the Zionist Council, *Setar* had, nevertheless, afforded some young people who might otherwise have not become involved, the opportunity to experience a Zionist youth movement. It had also shown that two Zionist youth groups with dissimilar ideologies could co-exist in Durban. In the light of the overall state of youth affairs in the City the fate that befell

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<sup>181</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 27th April, 1959, at 8 pm., p.7., Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on 21st September, 1959, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>182</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th June, 1960, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>183</sup> *Hashalom Hosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 64.

Setar was no different to that experienced by the Youth Forum, the Temple David Youth or the University Student Jewish Association.<sup>184</sup> This would seem to suggest that the discontinuation of Setar in Durban was not necessarily brought about by an overwhelming antipathy towards what it stood for but rather was attributable to insufficient number of young people being available to sustain and participate in the variety of youth activities that were available.

In an atmosphere markedly different to that which had surrounded the efforts to establish a Setar group in Durban, a Young Israel Society was revived, under the chairmanship of Mr Jack Strous, in 1958.<sup>185</sup> News of the re-emergence of this non-party post-matriculation Zionist youth body was noted with pleasure by the Zionist Council, which had shared in the community's concern on the Society's earlier demise in 1952.<sup>186</sup> The Zionist Council readily granted the Society affiliation,<sup>187</sup> as did the

<sup>184</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>185</sup> Minutes of the 60th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 12th March, 1958, at 5.15 pm., at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.3.

<sup>186</sup> See above p.1010.

<sup>187</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Monday, 12th May, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.2.

Natal Jewish Youth Council.<sup>188</sup> Notwithstanding its official reception the Society was, however, unable to function beyond November 1959, owing to a marked lack of support.<sup>189</sup> The factors which had contributed to the Society's dissolution in 1952, namely the inconsistent support of this specific age group for organised Zionist and Jewish activities, and the small number of eligible members resident in the City, were, in part, responsible for the Society's demise in 1959. In addition, however, the Society had had to compete for support with a large and increasingly popular Youth Section of the Durban Jewish Club. The Club's Youth Section offered its members the intellectual stimulus provided by the Young Israel Society, as well as a programme of social activities which the Society, by virtue of its nature and specific outlook, could in no way hope to emulate.

Apart from the organisations and parties representing the different categories of Zionists in Durban, the Zionist Council was also composed of representatives of other societies which, by virtue of their association with Israel, were accorded a place on the Council and the right to participate in its deliberations. All of these

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<sup>188</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 28th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 9th April, 1959, at 7.45 pm., p.5.

<sup>189</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 16th November, 1959, at 8 pm., p.8.

societies shared common difficulties in respect of office-bearers and communal support, but all persevered in their work, encouraged by the worthiness of their cause and the contribution which they were able to make to Zionist life.

The growing sea traffic between Israel and South Africa in this period, brought into prominence the work of the Israel Maritime League which, whilst it continued to be plagued by communal disinterest and relative inactivity, nevertheless persevered in its efforts to serve Israeli seamen. Following its closure in 1954,<sup>190</sup> it was not until two years later that suggestions were made to resuscitate the League.<sup>191</sup> Almost another whole year passed, however, before these suggestions were acted on, and on October 18, 1957, a meeting was convened by Dr I. Goldberg for the purpose of re-establishing the League's Durban branch.<sup>192</sup> It was realised that in order for this committee to succeed where its predecessors had failed it had to have specific projects which it could undertake. The only possible projects which it could think of were the creation of

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<sup>190</sup> See above p.1026.

<sup>191</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, November 19th, 1956, at 8 pm., p.5.

<sup>192</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st October, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3.

bursaries and the establishment of a Sea Scout Movement,<sup>193</sup> neither of which was original having both been attempted earlier.<sup>194</sup>

From May 1957, when the Israeli coaster *Atlit* arrived in Durban en route to the Gulf of Aqaba,<sup>195</sup> where it successfully broke the Arab blockade, a further incentive was provided for successfully re-establishing the League in Durban, in that thereafter the *Atlit* visited the City at frequent intervals.<sup>196</sup> Attempts to convene meetings in the hope of forming an Israel Maritime League Committee, nevertheless, continued to meet with a poor response.<sup>197</sup> In consequence, individual members of the community as well as other organisations, therefore, took it upon themselves to entertain the crew of the *Atlit*.<sup>198</sup>

The Zionist Council continued, nonetheless, to encourage any steps which would bring about the League's revival. In May 1958, its Secretary, Mr I. Fisher, together with Mrs Z. Moshal and Dr I. Goldberg, held

<sup>193</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>194</sup> See above p.1026.

<sup>195</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, May 13, 1957, p.4.

<sup>196</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.

<sup>197</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on the 17th February, 1958, at 8 pm., at the *Maon*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.5.

<sup>198</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 48.



discussions with Mr Ben Arie, the National Chairman of the Israel Maritime League when he passed through Durban.<sup>199</sup> A few weeks later it arranged the programme

in connection with the visit of Mrs Minnie Levitas, the Organising Secretary of the Israel Maritime League, who was brought to Durban under its auspices.<sup>200</sup>

Mrs Levitas addressed a number of public and drawing room meetings as well as a large gathering in Pietermaritzburg, and as a direct result of her visit a new committee of the Maritime League was formed in

Durban.<sup>201</sup> It was chaired by Dr I. Goldberg and consisted of Adv. R. Leon, Vice-Chairman; Mr R. Berkowitz, Treasurer; Miss N. Kirkel, Hon. Secretary;

Mr and Mrs T. Greenberg, Dr and Mrs M. Rom, Mrs R. Silbert, Mrs W. Smith, Mr M. Tollman and Mr A. Zulman,

Committee.<sup>202</sup> Interest in the work of the League was greatly heightened by the Committee's formation, as was reflected in the generous endowment made to the South African Friends of the Israel Maritime League for the

<sup>199</sup> Minutes of the 71st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 4th June, 1958, at the *Maov*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>200</sup> *Ibid.*, and Minutes of the 72nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 18th June, 1958, at the *Maov*, 1st Floor, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, p.2.

<sup>201</sup> *The Zionist Record*, August 1, 1958, p.11.

<sup>202</sup> *Ibid.*, p.14.

education of six naval officers, by Mr and Mrs A. Alper on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.<sup>203</sup>

The revival of the League's Durban branch corresponded with an increase in the visits of Israeli ships to Durban in consequence of the opening of the harbour at Eilat. Thus the League had to endeavour to arrange hospitality and entertainment for an ever-growing number of Israeli seamen who visited Durban.<sup>204</sup> Unhappily, however, support for the League failed to gain in momentum, possibly because it neither brought guest speakers to the City nor embarked on any major projects capable of exciting the interest of the community. With the resignation of its chairman, Dr I. Goldberg, in October 1959, the Zionist Council once again discussed means to revive and sustain it.<sup>205</sup>

In the absence of an active branch of the Maritime League in Durban steps were taken by the Zionist Council to create a committee to arrange entertainment for Israeli crewmen. It was hoped that from the nucleus of this proposed entertainment committee members for the Israel

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<sup>203</sup> *Hahhalom*. [XXXVI No.12] (August, 1958), 28.

<sup>204</sup> *Hahhalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 59.

<sup>205</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 19th October, 1959, at 8 pm., p.6.

Maritime League would be drawn.<sup>206</sup> The Zionist Council was particularly grateful to the Executive of the Jewish Club, which agreed to confer temporary membership on visiting Israeli seamen so as to enable them to make full use of all Club facilities.<sup>207</sup>

Under the chairmanship of Mr W. Cranko, the Maritime League's Durban branch was in fact revived once again in November, 1960.<sup>208</sup> When this news was announced by Mr H.L. Magid in his message from the Zionist Council to the Annual General Meeting of the Jewish Club, it was greeted with much acclaim,<sup>209</sup> indicating the community's recognition of the need for such a committee. Following its resuscitation a further meeting of the Durban branch was held early in 1961, at which a committee was elected consisting of Miss N. Kinkel, Secretary; Mr G. Neumann, Treasurer, Miss S. Sher, Mrs T. Greenberg, Dr H. Levenstein, Messrs J. Levy, W. Habermann, Kalmenowitz, T. Greenberg, M. Greenberg, Strieman,

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<sup>206</sup> Minutes of the 46th Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 24th February, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>207</sup> Minutes of the 16th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Tuesday, 26th April, 1960, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>208</sup> Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 7th November, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.1.

<sup>209</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 45.

C. Shapiro, Committee Members.<sup>210</sup> After it was successfully re-established an inaugural meeting of the League was held at the Jewish Club on July 31, 1961,<sup>211</sup> and the work of caring for visiting Israeli seamen thereafter became its task once more.

An organisation in the community with a long-standing association with Israel was the Friends of the Hebrew University which had been formed in 1935.<sup>212</sup> Although it had been dormant from September 1955, following the resignation of its chairman, Dr J.J. Frankel,<sup>213</sup> the branch had, nevertheless, maintained its collections for the Cecil Lyons Memorial Chair of Modern History, which had been established in 1945.<sup>214</sup>

Communal interest in the Hebrew University was revived in 1957 in consequence of the visit to Durban of Mr Bernard Cherrick, the Director of the Department of Organisation and Information of the Hebrew University.<sup>215</sup> During his visit Mr Cherrick addressed a combined meeting of the Union of Jewish Women and the Durban

<sup>210</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.7] (March, 1961), 48.

<sup>211</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the Maon, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st August, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

<sup>212</sup> *Haasholom*, XIII No.3 (November, 1935), 11., See Above p.263.

<sup>213</sup> See above pp.1033-1034.

<sup>214</sup> See above p.1029.

<sup>215</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, September 11, 1957, p.4.

Women's Zionist League, spoke at the University of Natal, the Durban Girls' High School and the Teachers' Training College and delivered an address, under the auspices of the Zionist Council and the Jewish Club.<sup>216</sup> In the wake of Mr Cherrick's visit the Natal Friends of the Hebrew University was resuscitated, with Mr J.J. Friedman as President, and Mrs S. Hodes as Secretary.<sup>217</sup>

The branch came to be firmly re-established as a result of a visit to Durban, early in 1958, by Professor B. Akzin, the Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Hebrew University.<sup>218</sup> Following a meeting in July 1958, which was addressed by Dr Henry Gluckman and Mr R. Frankel, the National Chairman of the Friends, the Hon. Mr Justice E.S. Henochsberg was elected the President of the Natal Branch and Messrs J. Diamond, M. Hertz, P. Frame, S. Goldberg and Mesdames M. Bierman and H. Wolf were elected the Branch's Committee.<sup>219</sup> Within a year the Friends in Natal had once again sunk back into inactivity<sup>220</sup> and it was only in November 1959, after the

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<sup>216</sup> *The Zionist Record*, September 20, 1957, p.7.

<sup>217</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, Pioneer Arcade, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 21st October, 1957, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>218</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 10, 1958, p.16.

<sup>219</sup> Minutes of the 77th Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held on Wednesday, 6th August, 1958, p.2.

<sup>220</sup> Minutes of the 26th Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 1st July, 1959, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

visit of Professor Yaakov Bentor, the Head of the Department of Geology at the Hebrew University, who visited South Africa to raise funds for a new geology block,<sup>221</sup> that the question of its revival, under Mr J.J. Friedman, came to be seriously considered once more.<sup>222</sup>

The Natal Committee meanwhile inaugurated a special drive for the purpose of raising an amount of £1,000 annually, over and above monies received from subscriptions, for a period of five years.<sup>223</sup> Through the generosity of several public-spirited Friends in Durban this drive met with considerable success.<sup>224</sup>

Towards the end of 1960, Mr J.J. Friedman vacated the chair<sup>225</sup> and in February 1961, he was succeeded as chairman of the Natal Friends by Mr C. Adley, whose appointment aroused renewed interest in the Hebrew University.<sup>226</sup> Mr Adley set about reorganising the local committee and successfully induced Mr S. Moshal to accept

<sup>221</sup> Minutes of the 41st Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Wednesday, 2nd December, 1959, at 5.15 pm., p.2.

<sup>222</sup> *Ibid.*, p.3.

<sup>223</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>224</sup> *HashaLom Rosh HashanaH Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

<sup>225</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>226</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 20th February, 1961, at 8 pm., p.6.

the position of Honorary President.<sup>227</sup>

Together with his committee, Mr Adley set about trying to make the Hebrew University better known among the Jewish community of Natal. This was done by means of articles in *Haskalom* and *Zionist Digest* and the circulation to various groups of items of interest to them. In addition, the mailing list of *Seopus*, the magazine of the Hebrew University, was revised and enlarged and in this way it was hoped that the activities of the Hebrew University would be brought to the attention of a much larger public.<sup>228</sup>

For all the apparent fluctuation in its fortunes the Natal Committee of the Friends of the Hebrew University, although sometimes dormant, was never dead. In most cases it simply required the presence of a visiting personality to reactivate and reinspire it. Like so many other small societies concerned with a particular institution or aspect of Zionist activity, the extent of the stimulation which it received from outside, coupled with the drive and forcefulness of its local leaders, as can be seen from the example of its chairmen, played a major part in determining the effectiveness and extent of activity of these particular societies.

The Natal Friends of the Hebrew University co-existed

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<sup>227</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, on Monday, 17th April, 1961, at 8 pm., p.3.

<sup>228</sup> *Haskalom Hosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 73.

most amicably alongside the Durban branch of the South African Technion Society which had been formed in 1955, under the chairmanship of Mrs Grace Smith,<sup>229</sup> who remained at its helm until her passing in 1961.<sup>230</sup>

Aimed at assisting the Technion by providing bursaries, scholarships, and technical equipment, the Friends of the Technion in Durban derived considerable pleasure, in 1957, from the decision of the Durban branch of the Union of Jewish Women to sponsor a bursary at the Technion for a period of five years.<sup>231</sup>

To bring the needs of the Technion to the notice of the Jewish community the Friends hosted a visit to Durban in April 1959, by General Y. Dori, the President of the Institute, and Mr S.J. Birn, the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors and Hon. Treasurer of the J.N.P. of Great Britain and Ireland. Apart from a private reception at the home of Mrs Smith and a public function at the Jewish Club,<sup>232</sup> General Dori also addressed a well attended Rotary Luncheon, where his talk created a profound impression on his predominantly Gentile audience.<sup>233</sup>

Taking advantage of the interest aroused by this

<sup>229</sup> See above pp. 1034-1035.

<sup>230</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No. 11] (July, 1961), 16.

<sup>231</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXVI No. 3 (November, 1957), 33.

<sup>232</sup> *Haskalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No. 1] (September, 1959), 60.

<sup>233</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, April 8, 1959, p. 14.



visit, the Durban Friends launched a campaign for increased membership of the Society. The appeal met, however, with a very poor response, both in respect of enrolling new members and collecting subscriptions from older members. Not disheartened in any way Mrs Smith's Committee, consisting of Messrs L. Brewer, I. Geshen and M. Freed, Vice-Presidents; Mr N. Essakow, Treasurer; Dr M. Brukin, Secretary; and Mr M. Cramer, Publicity Officer; publicly ascribed this state of affairs to the financial demands that were made on the community from other sources,<sup>234</sup> and undeterred pressed on with its drive.<sup>235</sup>

In October 1960, Mr Benzion Tooval, Dean of Students at the Technion visited Durban where he addressed a luncheon given by the Durban Zionist Association, and interviewed possible candidates who wished to study at his institution. The Friends of the Technion reportedly showed little interest in Mr Tooval's visit and failed to arrange a drawing room meeting,<sup>236</sup> indicating that whilst it might not have been disbanded it had fallen into a state of inactivity.

This state of affairs was largely attributable to the

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<sup>234</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60.

<sup>235</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 79.

<sup>236</sup> Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Zionist Council for Natal, held at the *Maon*, 72 Berea Road, Durban, on Monday, 24th October, 1960, at 5.15 pm., p.3.

ill-health which was being experienced by its chairman, Mrs Smith. Her commitment and devotion to the Technion was in large measure the secret of the Society's continued and uninterrupted existence, as was borne out by its demise following her death. The extent of Mrs Smith's interest in the Technion was, in fact, clearly revealed upon her death, when in terms of her will a sum of R200 was bequeathed to the South African Technion Society,<sup>237</sup> to which she had devoted so much of her energies.

A further monument to Mrs Grace Smith was the Natal Committee of the *Magen David Adom*, which from the time of its inception, in 1948,<sup>238</sup> was guided with equal dedication by her. Together with her hard working committee Mrs Smith directed the energies of the Natal Regional Centre to the vital task of fundraising, and much needed revenues were derived from a wide variety of sources. Apart from regular card afternoons, cake, jumble and bring-and-buy sales that were held at the homes of committee members,<sup>239</sup> funds were obtained through

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<sup>237</sup> *The South African Jewish Times*, September 7, 1962, p.22.

<sup>238</sup> See above p.1036.

<sup>239</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (August, 1956), 69., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 71., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

the annual dance held at the *Cosmo Club*;<sup>240</sup> numerous functions which were arranged by the proprietors of the *Mnora Hotel*;<sup>241</sup> the proceeds of offerings made at the Sabbath services held at the *Mnora Hotel*<sup>242</sup> and through the generosity of a Gentile farmer, Mr Moorecraft, who over a number of years donated lambs for auction.<sup>243</sup>

Among the most outstanding of the Regional Centre's fundraising activities were a stage show entitled *Something to Shout About*, which was presented by the Spotlight Variety Club, under the patronage of the Mayor, Councillor A.W. Jackson, at the *Y Club* in March 1958;<sup>244</sup> a showing of Israeli films at the *Shell Theatre* in August 1960,<sup>245</sup> and an all day bowling tournament held at The Riverside Bowling Club in June, 1961.<sup>246</sup> An

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<sup>240</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51.,  
*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78.,  
*Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

<sup>241</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.7 (February, 1957), 25., *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 35., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60.

<sup>242</sup> *Hasholom*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 35.

<sup>243</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 71., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60.

<sup>244</sup> *Hasholom*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 35., *The Natal Mercury*, March 14, 1958, p.10., March 21, 1958, p.9.

<sup>245</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78.

<sup>246</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 40., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

indication of the effectiveness of the Regional Branch's fundraising efforts was the announcement made at the Branch's annual general meeting in 1958, at which it was revealed that over the year an amount of £1,300 had been forwarded to National Headquarters and only £21 had been used to cover expenses.<sup>247</sup>

The Natal Regional Centre made a significant contribution to two major projects undertaken by the *Magen David Adom* in South Africa, which not only identified it with its National Organisation but also with M.D.A. in Israel and the important role which it played in preserving life there. The first of these was the Emergency Fund, launched in 1956, to secure medical equipment, stretchers and blankets to assist the beleaguered State.<sup>248</sup> Apart from a function held at the *Mnara Hotel*,<sup>249</sup> a bring-and-buy sale which was held in the garden of Mrs Smith's home,<sup>250</sup> and the 1957 dinner dance at the *Cosmo Club*, the proceeds of which were devoted entirely to the Fund,<sup>251</sup> the Appeal benefitted enormously from the generosity of M.D.A.'s friends and supporters in Durban.<sup>252</sup> At the biennial conference of

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<sup>247</sup> *The Zionist Record*, August 1, 1958, p.14.

<sup>248</sup> *Hasholom Bosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69.

<sup>249</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.7 (February, 1957), 25.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 27.

<sup>251</sup> *Hasholom Bosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 71.

<sup>252</sup> *Ibid.*

*Magen David Adom* in South Africa, in 1957, Durban was, in fact, congratulated on the amount that it had collected during the drive.<sup>253</sup>

In 1960, M.D.A. in South Africa adopted the construction of a first-aid post in Jerusalem as its national project. South African and Rhodesian Jews were therefore accordingly invited to supply the necessary bricks at a cost of 10/- per brick. The Natal Region's fine record of fundraising prompted the National Headquarters to look to Natal to provide between 4000 and 5000 of the 100,000 bricks that were required for the project.<sup>254</sup> Owing to several other fundraising drives that were taking place in the community the campaign had to be extended over a much longer period than was originally anticipated.<sup>255</sup> It nevertheless proved to be a most popular venture and a satisfactory sum was collected.<sup>256</sup>

Whilst the Natal Regional Centre's principal preoccupation lay in fundraising, its Zionist orientation led to its continued participation, along with other Jewish organisations in the City in the annual WIZO

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<sup>253</sup> *The Zionist Record*, November 29, 1957, p.13.

<sup>254</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 33.

<sup>255</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78.

<sup>256</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

Fete.<sup>257</sup> At the same time the Regional Committee continued to display a keen sense of communal commitment as was borne out by the willingness of its members to do first-aid duty at Jewish public functions, whenever they were called upon to do so.<sup>258</sup>

Having taken root in the community, the *Magen David Adom* came to be even more firmly secured when, in 1957, sufficient interest in the organisation was generated in the community for steps to be taken to form a Junior Branch, for people 17-25 years of age. Its convener was Miss Yvonne Hackner, with Mr Graham Abrahams as the Vice-Chairman; Gloria Saville as Secretary and Philip Baynash as Treasurer, and its first big activity was a dance organised by Miss Suzanne Sandler.<sup>259</sup> The junior members assisted the adult committee by acting as ushers and usherettes at the M.D.A. Variety Concert in March, 1958;<sup>260</sup> joined in the celebrations organised by the Natal Jewish Youth Council to mark Israel's

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<sup>257</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 71., *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 33., *The Zionist Record*, December 12, 1958, p.13., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 78., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1962), 79.

<sup>258</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 9, 1958, p.12., August 1, 1958, p.14., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 74.

<sup>259</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 71.

<sup>260</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51.

10th Yom Haatzmaut;<sup>261</sup> and also participated in the celebrations organised by the Zionist Council to commemorate the occasion.<sup>262</sup> Unhappily, however, nothing is heard thereafter of the Junior Branch which, apparently, through insufficient activity,<sup>263</sup> failed to sustain the support of its members and simply disbanded.

Among the adult community, the M.D.A.'s growing support was reflected in the creation in 1957, of a Durban North branch, which was convened by Mrs H. Gurwitz, assisted by Mrs E. Orden.<sup>264</sup> Membership of the Natal Region, sustained by membership drives,<sup>265</sup> in 1958, totalled about 300.<sup>266</sup> Whilst less than half the number of members recorded in 1951,<sup>267</sup> this figure did not necessarily signal a decline in support for the organisation but rather the stabilisation of numbers after an initial outburst of enthusiasm following upon its establishment.

For the committee and members of the Natal Regional

<sup>261</sup> *The Zionist Record*, May 9, 1958, p.12.

<sup>262</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51.

<sup>263</sup> *The Zionist Record*, August 1, 1958, p.14.

<sup>264</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 71.

<sup>265</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 35., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 51.

<sup>266</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, March 4, 1958, p.9.

<sup>267</sup> See above p.1037.

Centre an historic milestone was reached in 1959 when M.D.A. in South Africa celebrated the 13th anniversary of its establishment. Great pride was taken by the Natal Committee in this achievement, to which it had contributed in no small measure, and suitable functions were held to mark this auspicious occasion. Apart from special services which were arranged in the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue and the Temple David on February 27, a banquet was held at the *Mnora Hotel*, attended by representatives of all communal organisations.<sup>268</sup> The Union of Jewish Women took advantage of the occasion to present a cheque to *Magen David Adom*, whilst the Durban Women's Zionist League presented a Tree Certificate to the Natal Regional Centre.<sup>269</sup>

The *Sarmitzakh* celebrations served to affirm the Natal Region's close ties with the National Headquarters, which were sustained by visitors from M.D.A. Headquarters,<sup>270</sup> and by the Natal Region's participation

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<sup>268</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 29.

<sup>269</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.5] (April, 1959), 31.

<sup>270</sup> Including Dr Schneider (*Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 24.) and Mrs Lew the editress of the M.D.A. bulletin in South Africa. (*Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60.



in the organisation's biennial national conferences.<sup>271</sup>  
 At the Conference in 1961, Mrs Grace Smith was elected a Vice-President of the National Organisation, in fitting recognition of her remarkable services to the Natal Regional Centre, of which she was the chairman and founder.<sup>272</sup> This well deserved honour was accorded Mrs Smith only a few weeks before her passing after a long and serious illness.<sup>273</sup> Mrs Smith's death left a vacuum in the *Magen David Adom*, as indeed it did in many other organisations in the City. The strong and highly efficient committee that she had gathered around her in her lifetime, ensured however, that Mrs Smith's efforts on behalf of the M.D.A. were not in vain and the organisation continued to develop on the firm foundations which she had helped to lay.<sup>274</sup>

Although the *Magen David* was strictly a sub-committee of the Zionist Council, by virtue of its activities it would seem more appropriate to include it amongst the other Zionist organisations active in the community.

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<sup>271</sup> In 1957 this Conference was attended by Mrs G. Smith, (*The Zionist Record*, August 1, 1958, p.14.). In 1959 Mr S. Taitz represented the Natal Regional Centre [*Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 60.] and in 1961 Mrs G. Smith again represented Natal's committee at Conference. (*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, July 14, 1961, p.13.).

<sup>272</sup> *Heshalom*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 16.

<sup>273</sup> *The Zionist Record*, July 14, 1961, p.13.

<sup>274</sup> *Heshalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 79.

Following the committee's reorganisation in 1953,<sup>275</sup> interest in the *Maccabi* Association was sustained and intensified by a very effective committee led by Mr H. Canarick, whose place as chairman was taken over, upon his resignation in 1956, by Mr S. Smo.<sup>276</sup> Under Mr Smo, and his successor, Mr J. Lazarow, the Natal *Maccabi* Association flourished as it grew in numbers, and maintained a full programme of sporting activities.

On the local level the *Maccabi* Association continued to organise an annual bowling tournament at the Circle Bowling Club. This tournament not only strengthened the Association by attracting new members to its ranks, but also afforded local bowlers an opportunity to compete with visiting *Maccabi* teams from other centres who came to Durban to participate in this event.<sup>277</sup> It, furthermore, encouraged closer co-operation with the sports sections of the Jewish Club, to which the majority of the Jewish sportsmen and women in Durban were affiliated, and led to a similar tournament being arranged

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<sup>275</sup> See above p.1045.

<sup>276</sup> *Hashalom Rash Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 69.

<sup>277</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.2 (September, 1956), 29., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 35., *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.10] (June, 1958), 37., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 45., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.7] (March, 1960), 47., *Hashalom Rash Hashonah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 65.

for golf enthusiasts with the Circle Country Club.<sup>278</sup>

Through the *Maccabi* Association, sporting links were maintained with branches of the Association in other parts of South Africa, as the Natal Association was represented at all Sports Festivals organised annually in different centres from 1959.<sup>279</sup> Encouraged by the success of these Festivals the Natal *Maccabi* Association held the first *Maccabi* Golf Tournament at the Circle Country Club in July 1961, which attracted Jewish golfers from all round the country and proved to be an unqualified success.<sup>280</sup>

As part of the South African *Maccabi* Association, the Natal Committee also entertained the Rina Nikova Israeli Dance Troupe which had been brought to South Africa in 1960, to participate in the Union Festival. After the Festival the Troupe had undertaken a tour of the major cities in the Union under the auspices of the *Maccabi* Association.<sup>281</sup>

The highlight of the Natal Committee's activities without doubt remained its work in connection with finding suitable candidates for inclusion in the South African

<sup>278</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 29., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 45., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.12] (August, 1960), 39.

<sup>279</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 29 and 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 37.

<sup>280</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, August 4, 1959, p.65.

<sup>281</sup> *Ibid.*, May 13, 1960, p.4., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No. 1]

teams which participated in the *Maccabiah* in Israel. Selection for the *Maccabiah* remained a highly prized honour for Jewish sportsmen and women and a prerequisite for inclusion in the South African team was membership of one of the South African Association's Provincial Committee's. In January 1957, the Natal Committee began its extensive preparations for the 5th *Maccabiah*, which was held some nine months later, by calling for nominations.<sup>282</sup> The Natal *Maccabi* Association received a very good response and the nominations were forwarded to the South African *Maccabi* Council in Johannesburg.<sup>283</sup> Of those nominated from Natal Mrs Vera Friede (Bowls), and Messrs Raymond Falke and Bernard Sinclair (Weightlifting), were ultimately selected to represent South Africa in the *Maccabi* Games.<sup>284</sup> With a great deal of pride the Natal Committee learnt of Mrs Friede's victory in the Israeli pairs competition, in which she was partnered by Mrs L. Green, as well as her success in the Israeli singles competition, in which she was a runner up, and her attainment of a silver medal for the *Maccabi* rinks in which she skipped the South African side.<sup>285</sup>

Spurred on by the selection of certain of its

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<sup>282</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.6 (January, 1957), 9.

<sup>283</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.10 (May, 1957), 29.

<sup>284</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 33.

<sup>285</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 65.

sportsmen for the 1957 Games, the Natal *Maccabi* Association began its preparations for the 1961 Games in June 1960, by holding a meeting to elect a committee to oversee all the necessary arrangements.<sup>286</sup> By the end of 1960, the Natal Committee had streamlined its organisation to ensure that every possible candidate in Natal had a fair opportunity to compete for a place in the national team and had appointed conveners for all the major sports.<sup>287</sup> Those from Durban who were finally selected for inclusion in the South African teams were Dennis Gamsy (Soccer), Betty Liepner (Swimming), Dennis Port (Vice-Captain, Water Polo), and Jack Lazerow (Administrative Manager).<sup>288</sup> Much to the delight of the community all the sportsmen from Durban returned home from the Games with medals, the South African water polo team having gained a bronze medal,<sup>289</sup> the soccer team having won a similar medal, whilst Betty Liepner brought back with her two silver medals for her successes in the 4 x 100 medley relay and 4 x 100

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<sup>286</sup> *Haskalah*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 37.

<sup>287</sup> They were Hockey (Men and Women), David Goulding; Soccer, Dennis Gamsy; Swimming and Water Polo, Dennis Port; Athletics, David Firer; Weightlifting, Boxing and Wrestling, Bernard Sinclair; Golf, M. Hellmann; Bowls (Men), Harold Friede and Maurice Levitan; Bowls (Women), Vera Friede and Vera Levitan; Rowing, Shooting and Table Tennis, Jack Lazerow. (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 41.).

<sup>288</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, May 19, 1961, p.18.

<sup>289</sup> *Ibid.*, September 8, 1961, p.7.

freestyle medley.<sup>290</sup>

Encouraged by its achievements at home, and by the success of its members in the *Maccabi* Games, the Natal *Maccabi* Association not only retained its vitality throughout this period but through the determination of its leaders persisted in its efforts to strengthen the place which *Maccabi* enjoyed in the Zionist and Jewish sporting life of the Durban Jewish community.

Unlike the previous decade which had witnessed the emergence of a number of new Zionist societies, in this period few new organisations emerged which were to have a lasting effect on Zionist life in the City. Nevertheless, it remained one of intense Zionist activity which was essentially characterised by the consolidation and development of those Zionist bodies which were already operating within the community and were affiliated to the Zionist Council for Natal. Through the varied nature and wide scope of the activities of these societies all those in the community who wished to serve the Zionist cause were afforded adequate opportunity to give practical expression to this desire.

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<sup>290</sup> *Ibid.*, September 29, 1961, p.18.

## CHAPTER XLIX

THE COMMUNITY'S WELFARE  
AND SERVICE BODIES : 1956 - 1961

The work of the community's welfare and service organisations not only contributed to the enrichment of Jewish communal life but made them important healing agencies, through which a spirit of communal unity could be fostered, notwithstanding the religious affiliation of their members.

## DURBAN JEWISH WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The consolidation of Jewish welfare activity in Durban, which was brought about by the creation of the Durban Jewish Welfare Association, not only benefitted those within the community who required its aid but also enhanced the quality of local communal life.

Following on its formation in 1955, the Welfare Association, guided by its President, Mr I. Geshen, embarked upon a programme of co-ordination, consolidation and planning of administration to serve the community better. Case work came to be more confidential than ever

before and the scope of self-aid and rehabilitation became even greater.<sup>1</sup>

From its inception the Association laid emphasis on rehabilitation rather than charity,<sup>2</sup> and its rehabilitation work was effectively carried out by its secretary and by a Case Committee which, whenever it proved necessary, enlisted the voluntary aid of social workers, doctors and others. Numerous interviews with clients were conducted annually and problems dealt with, included business failure, support for the aged, unemployment, unemployability, domestic desertion and physical illness. In these fields the results of the Association's work were particularly gratifying as many individual cases responded extremely favourably to its endeavour. Whenever circumstances necessitated it, direct monetary grants and food parcels were also made available to deserving cases.<sup>3</sup> Further assistance was extended by the Association through the Durban Jewish Loan Fund, which was operated in a highly confidential way and which proved itself a boon to the small business man.<sup>4</sup> At the same time deserving brides in the community

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<sup>1</sup>*Haskolom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63.

<sup>2</sup>*Haskolom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 33.

<sup>3</sup>*Haskolom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55.

<sup>4</sup>*Haskolom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 29., *Haskolom*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 37., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 37.



continued to be endowed by the Association through the *Hashkeseath Kalah Fund*.<sup>5</sup>

Sick-visiting continued to be one of the Association's most important duties and frequent visits were made by members of the Welfare Association to Jewish patients in hospitals and nursing homes in the City.<sup>6</sup> In this sphere of its work the Association co-operated closely with the Rabbis of the community and the Hebrew Order of David.<sup>7</sup> Through the Association's After Care Committee, regular and most welcome visits also continued to be made to patients who were recuperating in their own homes.<sup>8</sup> Representatives of the Welfare Association furthermore, visited Jewish patients at the Umgeni Waterfall

<sup>5</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63., *Hashalom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 29., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.1] (July, 1959), 37., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (July, 1961), 37.

<sup>7</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55.

<sup>8</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 64., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 37.

Institution for the Mentally Defective in Howick<sup>9</sup> and, whenever the need arose, they visited the prisons to distribute comforts.<sup>10</sup>

The work that was carried out by the Welfare Association was performed almost entirely by voluntary workers, many of whom devoted much of their time and energies to its service. Whilst such devotion could hardly be compensated with monetary gifts due recognition of these workers was accorded by the Association. In July 1959, for example, a function was held, in conjunction with the Union of Jewish Women, to honour Mrs C. Robinson, an Honorary Life Member of both organisations, on her 80th birthday.<sup>11</sup> A similar tribute was paid Mrs G. Hirschfield, another Life Member of the Welfare Association, on the occasion of her 80th birthday in 1958.<sup>12</sup> In 1959, an afternoon tea was arranged, in conjunction with the *Chevre Kadisha* of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, to honour Mrs L. Fobb an Hon. Life Member, and Mr Fobb, on the occasion of their Golden Wedding, and an identical function was held by the Welfare Association to pay tribute to another life member, Mr A. Berman, and Mrs Berman, on their 50th wedding

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<sup>9</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 31 and 33.,  
*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 33.

<sup>10</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55.

<sup>11</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 29.

<sup>12</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 37.

anniversary,<sup>13</sup>

The funds necessary to maintain the Jewish Welfare Association were derived, in part, from the Durban Jewish Community Chest, whose income was derived from the campaign which was conducted jointly with the United Communal Fund. Fluctuations in support of these joint campaigns in turn affected the Welfare Association and the Chests's other beneficiaries. The Association's main and most steady source of income therefore remained the subscriptions of members.<sup>14</sup>

By 1958, it was revealed that notwithstanding the Association's outstanding work there were only 1472 members of the Association who paid an annual subscription of one guinea. In that year revenue consequently fell short of expenditure by £1,514, a situation which, although temporarily relieved by receipts of bequests and donations,<sup>15</sup> ultimately necessitated the launching of an S.O.S. appeal for funds with a target of £5,000.<sup>16</sup> Support for this appeal was extremely tardy<sup>17</sup> and even once its goal had been attained, the Association's problem in respect of finance persisted, aggravated by the

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<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.6] (February, 1959), 17.

<sup>14</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.12 (July, 1957), 29.

<sup>15</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 2-3.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.2] (October, 1958), 41 and 43.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 29.

negligence of members in paying subscriptions.<sup>18</sup>

To help supplement the Association's income, so as to enable it to provide holidays for the needy and to distribute comforts over the High Holiday period, the Flower Fund continued to sell cards which could be sent in *lieu* of flowers to mark any special occasion.<sup>19</sup> A further highly innovative and extremely effective means of deriving revenue was the New Year Greetings Booklet which the Welfare Association first produced in 1959. This booklet, which from the time of its introduction gained the immediate acceptance of the community, was distributed to all Durban Jewish residents and included the names of all families who had given a donation to the Welfare Association in *lieu* of sending individual *Rosh Hashanah* greetings cards.<sup>20</sup> The outstanding support which the Greeting Booklet enjoyed not only benefited the Association quite substantially, but made it the standard and accepted form of conveying New Year greetings within

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<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 3.

<sup>19</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXIV No.4 (January, 1956), 33., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 63., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 64., *Hasholom*, [XXXVIII No.10] (June, 1960), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 37.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 39.

the community.<sup>21</sup>

The Greetings Booklet was, furthermore, a fulfillment of the hope expressed at the Association's inception, that it might become the channel through which all Jewish welfare efforts would flow.<sup>22</sup> Communal co-operation was in fact one of the basic requirements of the successful administration of a single Jewish welfare organisation and this was established in representation on the Welfare's Council, of members of the C.N.J., the Union of Jewish Women, Sisterhood of Temple David, Witwatersrand Jewish Old Age Home, the Hebrew Order of David and the South African Jewish Orphanage.<sup>23</sup>

The Jewish Welfare Association maintained close and cordial ties with all the organisations represented on its Council, and in particular with the Council of Natal Jewry, with which it continued to enjoy a most harmonious working relationship. Upon the creation of the Jewish Welfare Association the Council of Natal Jewry had, nevertheless, continued to maintain a Welfare Committee which concerned itself with those matters related to welfare work which fell outside of the Association's scope. Its work included advising on naturalisation, tracing missing relatives abroad and dispatching food and

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<sup>21</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 69., *Hashalom*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 3.

<sup>22</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 55.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 64.

clothing parcels to Iron Curtain countries.<sup>24</sup> Occasioned by the prevailing economic recession, the C.N.J.'s Welfare Committee established an employment bureau in 1959, to which the Jewish Welfare Association was able to direct the growing number of people within the community who found themselves retrenched.<sup>25</sup>

Motivated by a common desire to meet the needs of the community, the Welfare Association and the C.N.J. together with the Union of Jewish Women, held discussions in 1957, in respect of the feasibility of opening a Jewish old age home in Durban.<sup>26</sup> Resulting from these preliminary discussions a survey was held in 1959, to establish the need for a Jewish old age home,<sup>27</sup> but many more years were in fact to pass before such a home was opened in Durban.<sup>28</sup>

In 1960, a shared concern, namely the arrival of

<sup>24</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 26th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, April 4th, 1957, at 8 pm., p.7.

<sup>25</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 64.

<sup>26</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive and Public Relations Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 1st August, 1957, at 8 pm., pp.3-4.

<sup>27</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 64.

<sup>28</sup> The *Beth Shalom*, the Durban Jewish Old Age Home was only established in 1970. (*The Natal Mercury*, November 7, 1970, p.5.)

Jewish refugees from the Belgian Congo, brought the Jewish Welfare Association together once again with the C.N.J. and the Union of Jewish Women. In a spirit of mutual co-operation, borne out of a desire to relieve the plight of the Congolese refugees, these organisations, together with the Sisterhood of Temple David and the Durban Jewish Club, notwithstanding the sectional differences which might have existed between them, co-operated in bringing about the creation of an assistance committee.<sup>29</sup> By their joint activity these organisations testified once again to the unifying character of the Welfare Association.

Through the nature of its work, its place within the Jewish community, its wide range of contact with people from every walk of life and its relationship to various agencies and State Department, the Durban Jewish Welfare Association was able to make a very important and practical contribution to the solution of local Jewish problems.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Communal Offices, on Tuesday, 13th September, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.

<sup>30</sup> *Hashalom Eosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 69.

## UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

The pre-eminent position which the Union enjoyed, by virtue of its dual role as the co-ordinating body of all local Jewish women's organisations and as their official liaison body within the wider community, remained unchallenged in this period as the Durban branch went about its multifarious activities.

Within the wider community the Union was acknowledged and respected for its significant contribution in the field of social welfare amongst all sections of Durban's population. Its major work in this respect continued to be focused on alleviating distress and suffering amongst the City's less fortunate residents.

The infant feeding schemes run by the Union at Springfield and Lamontville, which had been inaugurated in 1949,<sup>31</sup> had proved so successful that in 1956, they were taken over by the National War Memorial Health Foundation, under the title of Feed the Babies Fund.<sup>32</sup> Having been instrumental in its development the Union naturally followed the fortunes of this Fund with a considerable degree of interest and continued to provide the necessary funds to maintain 50 infants per year.<sup>33</sup>

The Union's support for the Cato Manor Community

<sup>31</sup> See above p.1113.

<sup>32</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41.



Huts Scheme was also continued,<sup>34</sup> although its major project in respect of the residents of Cato Manor remained the Nursery School, attended by some 150 little Black children.<sup>35</sup> In 1957, the Union's efforts at Cato Manor were doubled by the opening of a second nursery school,<sup>36</sup> later named Carmel,<sup>37</sup> which enabled it to provide attention to the needs of an even greater number of African children.

The entire costs incurred in the running of these two nursery schools at Cato Manor continued to be borne by the Union's Durban branch, staff salaries, milk, etc. being some of the larger expenses, whilst gifts of equipment, food supplies and clothing were donated by local business houses.<sup>38</sup> In addition to the material assistance provided, the Union arranged for two of its members to be on duty at the schools each day of the week to supervise the feeding and care of the children.<sup>39</sup>

Unfortunately both of these schools were burnt down during the riots which broke out in Cato Manor during 1959. The disappointment felt by the members of the Union over this development was, however, offset by the

<sup>34</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXV No.5] (December, 1956), 25.

<sup>35</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 61.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62.

<sup>37</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.5] (January, 1959), 23.

<sup>38</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 27.

<sup>39</sup> *Ibid.*

spirit shown by the pupils' mothers, who banded together to collect donations in cash and kind to restart the schools.<sup>40</sup> Housed in temporary premises in Cato Manor the Union's two nursery schools continued to function effectively, notwithstanding the political circumstances in which they were forced to operate. On occasion however these circumstances prevented the representatives of the Union from visiting the schools with the same degree of regularity as they had done in the past.

The funds necessary to maintain the two nursery schools at Cato Manor and to meet the Union's obligations to the Feed the Baby Fund, were derived from the sponsorship provided by Durban's principal business houses for the annual concerts that were arranged for under-privileged children of all races in the City Hall.<sup>41</sup> Held under the patronage of the Mayoress these concerts featured a variety of well known artists, and entertainers. A measure of the importance with which these concerts were viewed was reflected in the free provision of municipal buses by the City Council to

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<sup>40</sup> *Hashalom Roeh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 65.

<sup>41</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.6] (February, 1957), 33., *Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41., *Ibid.*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 47.

transport the children to and from the City Hall.<sup>42</sup>

Complementing the work which it undertook amongst the children within the Black community the Union came, from 1960, to be closely interested in the activities of the Durban Bantu Refugee Home which provided a home for indigent elderly Black people.<sup>43</sup>

The Union's programme of social welfare was not, however, confined to only one section of Durban's diverse population. In addition to its activities on behalf of the Black residents of the City it provided annual entertainment for the children of the Malvern Home, which was run under the auspices of the Child Welfare Society.<sup>44</sup> From 1961, under the direction of Mesdames J. Faiga and J. Rapeport, the Union came, furthermore, to run play centres at Bellhaven, St. Agnes, Addington and Glenwood where White children, whose parents were working, could do homework and play games under adult supervision.<sup>45</sup> In the same year the Union also arranged a picnic for the

<sup>42</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.4] (December, 1957), 27., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1958), 39., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 43., *Ibid.*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 47.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXIX No.4 (December, 1960), 41., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

<sup>44</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.9] (May, 1960), 33.

<sup>45</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

children from a Coloured orphanage.<sup>46</sup>

Unwilling to rest on its laurels the Union, alongside its full programme of social welfare work, continued to identify with the fundraising activities of a wide variety of different organisations, all dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of the residents of Durban. In this regard the Union rendered practical assistance to the St. John's Ambulance Brigade,<sup>47</sup> the Christmas Stamp Fund,<sup>48</sup> the Easter Stamp Fund,<sup>49</sup> the Durban and District Community Chest,<sup>50</sup> the Hibberdene Holiday Home,<sup>51</sup> the South African Institute of Race Relations,<sup>52</sup> the Brown's School for Cerebral Palsyed Children,<sup>53</sup> the

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>47</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 27., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 35., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41., *The Natal Mercury*, November 6, 1961, p.7.

<sup>48</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 35., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41.

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>50</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 27., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 35., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41.

<sup>51</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 27.

<sup>53</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 25.

Children's Care Centres,<sup>54</sup> the Non-European Pre-School Playground Association,<sup>55</sup> the Red Cross Society,<sup>56</sup> the Natal Settlers Memorial Homes,<sup>57</sup> organisations concerned with the welfare of the blind, deaf and aged of the Indian, Coloured and Black communities,<sup>58</sup> the National Cancer Association,<sup>59</sup> Tape Aids for the Blind,<sup>60</sup> the Planned Parenthood Association<sup>61</sup> and the National War Memorial Health Foundation,<sup>62</sup> and was furthermore associated with the Toch Lunch Forums.<sup>63</sup>

The Union's philanthropic activity within the wider community was matched only by its generosity in respect of Jewish causes. Sharing the community's interest in Israel the Union held numerous fundraising activities each year to enable it to meet its financial commitments to the Parasitology Laboratory at the Hebrew University

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<sup>54</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.12] (August, 1959), 31.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>62</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

<sup>63</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25.,  
*Hashalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 41.

of Jerusalem.<sup>64</sup> At the same time the Union's interest in higher education in Israel was further reflected through its sponsorship of a bursary at the Technion, Israel's Institute of Technology in Haifa.<sup>65</sup> The Durban branch of the Union also identified closely with the League for Women's Rights in Israel by contributing regularly to its funds.<sup>66</sup>

Within its own community the Union worked tirelessly on behalf of the United Communal Fund<sup>67</sup> and devoted considerable attention to raising funds for the Durban United Hebrew Schools,<sup>68</sup> to whose Endowment Fund it

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<sup>64</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 61., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 57., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 65., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 73., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

<sup>65</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 33., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 35., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

<sup>66</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

<sup>67</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.4 (December, 1957), 27., *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 33.

<sup>68</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 28., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 29., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.9] (May, 1959), 37.

contributed no less than 100 guineas in 1960.<sup>69</sup>

Not content to serve its own community simply by providing funds, the Union continued to make a significant contribution towards assuring the contentment of the Jewish aged by continuing to arrange the Golden Age Club, which met every Wednesday afternoon to provide entertainment and companionship for the elderly.<sup>70</sup> In addition to the drives, film shows and teas which were provided by the Club, the members of the Union also annually provided the old people with gifts and food parcels at the start of the Jewish New Year.<sup>71</sup>

Embracing as it did, all the Jewish women's organisations in Durban it fell to the Union to entertain Mrs A.E. Trollip, the wife of the Administrator of Natal, in 1958, on behalf of the Jewish women of the City.<sup>72</sup> This unique position which the Union enjoyed within the community not only greatly enhanced its prestige in the eyes of the Gentile community, but added lustre to the Founders' Day celebrations which were attended by

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

<sup>70</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 25., *Ibid.*, XXXV No.6 (January, 1957), 27., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 65., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 73., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

<sup>71</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.2] (October, 1958), 41., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 37., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 43.

<sup>72</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 57.

representatives of all women's organisations. From 1959, this event came to be marked by the selection of a Woman of the Year which, by virtue of the Union's status, was a much sought-after honour. In 1959, the first recipient of this title was Miss Doris Davies, the headmistress of the Government Open Air School.<sup>73</sup> Thereafter it was conferred on Mrs L. Blumenfeld, the Chairman of the Child Welfare Society,<sup>74</sup> and Mrs M. Asher, the National President of the National Council of Women.<sup>75</sup>

Within the Jewish community the Union maintained extremely cordial relations with its constituent bodies and furthermore enjoyed a harmonious relationship with all the Jewish organisations in the City. Particularly close ties were maintained with the Durban Women's Zionist League, with whom, over the years, the Union held

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<sup>73</sup> *Haskalah*, [XXXVIII No.3] (November, 1959), 35.

<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.3] (November, 1960), 39.

<sup>75</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, October 21, 1961, p.7.



a number of successful joint functions,<sup>76</sup> as well as continuing to run a stall at the annual WIZO fete.<sup>77</sup>

In collaboration with the Sisterhood of Temple David, the Union assisted other Women's Organisations in Natal to collect books to sell for the Natal University Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 1960,<sup>78</sup> and held a cake sale to aid the play centres maintained by the Union.<sup>79</sup> The Union also continued to follow, with close interest, the progress of the Synagogue Women's Guild and successfully

<sup>76</sup> Including a reception in honour of Mrs Fay Doron, the wife of the Israeli Consul General, (*The Zionist Record*, May 31, 1957, p.19.) a luncheon in honour of Mrs Ruth Dayan, (*Ibid.*, September 20, 1957, p.14.) an address by Miss Sallie Kussel, the Union's National Organising Secretary, (*Hasholom*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 27.) an address by Mr Bernard Cherrick of the Hebrew University (*Ibid.*, 19-21.) a function to mark the 10th anniversary of Israel's independence, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.9] (May, 1958), 31.) an address by Mr Yehuda Nedivi, the Town Clerk of Tel Aviv-Yoffo, (*Ibid.*, 31.) a tea in honour of Mrs I. Goldstein, a prominent American Jewish worker. (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 33.) an address by Mr Sam Ernst, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 33.) a reception for Mrs Solomon, wife of the Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of Israel, (*The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, June 10, 1960, p.15.) a function to mark book month, (*Hasholom*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 43) and a further address by Mr Ernst. (*Ibid.*, [XL No.2] (October, 1961), 47.).

<sup>77</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.3 (November, 1957), 33., *Hasholom*, [XXXVII No.3] (November, 1958), 29., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

<sup>78</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 35.

<sup>79</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

encouraged the Guild to press for full membership rights for women on the Durban United Hebrew Congregation and for representation of women on the Congregation's Council.<sup>80</sup>

The Union's links with the Durban United Hebrew Congregation were sustained through its continued support for the Congregation's Communal *Seder*<sup>81</sup> and the organisation of services to mark Women's World Day of Prayer.<sup>82</sup> In 1961, on the opening of the Congregation's new Synagogue, the Union furnished, and decorated, the Brides' Room.<sup>83</sup> Equally cordial were the ties which the Union maintained with the Progressive Congregation, in conjunction with which it also arranged services to mark the Women's World Day of Prayer.<sup>84</sup> In 1961, the Temple David gratefully acknowledged the Union's contribution of a row of seats by dedicating a plaque in honour of the Union during the Congregation's *Chanukah* service.<sup>85</sup>

In collaboration with the Durban Jewish Welfare Association the Union held a function in July 1957, to honour Mrs C. Robinson, an Hon. Life Member of both

<sup>80</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 31., See above p.

<sup>81</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.5 (December, 1956), 25., *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

<sup>82</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.8 (March, 1957), 23., *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

<sup>83</sup> *The Natal Daily News*, December 22, 1961, p.8.

<sup>84</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.4] (December, 1961), 15.

Organisations, on the occasion of her 80th birthday.<sup>86</sup>  
 In 1960, the Union joined with the Welfare Association, the Sisterhood of Temple David and the Durban Jewish Club to form a committee to assist Jewish refugees from the Belgian Congo.<sup>87</sup> The Union also retained a lively interest in the work of the *Magen David Adom*, which it had been instrumental in forming. At a banquet held to mark the 13th anniversary of the Natal Regional Centre, in 1959, the Union took advantage of the occasion to present a substantial cheque to the M.D.A. in support of its noble work.<sup>88</sup>

In order to meet its many and varied financial obligations the Union resorted to a variety of fundraising measures, which varied from fashion shows to competitions with valuable prizes.<sup>89</sup> In June 1961, in an effort to further augment its funds, the Durban branch opened a Thrift Shop.<sup>90</sup> Led by Mesdames S. Goldberg, L. Lazarus, E. Ditz and their co-workers,<sup>91</sup> it immediately proved itself to be an important and

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<sup>86</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 29.

<sup>87</sup> Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of Natal Jewry, held at the Communal Offices, on Tuesday, 13th September, 1960, at 8 pm., pp.2-3.

<sup>88</sup> *Haskalom*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 31.

<sup>89</sup> *Haskalom*, XXXIV No.7 (April, 1956), 24., *Haskalom*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 29., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 41.

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.10] (June, 1961), 40.

<sup>91</sup> *Haskalom Bosh Boshanna Annual*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

invaluable source of revenue.

The activities undertaken by the Union within the Jewish and general community, although extensive and time consuming, reflected only a part of the organisation's busy programme. It provided furthermore for the cultural development of its members through a varied programme of monthly cultural functions addressed by a wide variety of competent and extremely knowledgeable speakers.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Including Dr Hilda Kuper, the well known social anthropologist, (*Hashalom*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 25.) Dr Hansi Pollak, the prominent South African academic, (*The Zionist Record*, May 31, 1957, p.19.) Miss Helen Cohn, who was associated with the World Health Organisation, (*Hashalom*, XXXV No.11 (June, 1957), 28.) the South African theatre personality, Mr Brian Brooke, (*Ibid.*, XXXV No.13 (August, 1957), 29.) Mr Harold Meeden of the B.B.C. (*Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.7] (March, 1958), 35.) Mrs Thelma Macdonald, the local musical comedy producer (*Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.8] (April, 1958), 29.) screen and stage star Moira Lister, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.10] (June, 1958), 31.) Alan Paton, the famous South African author, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.8] (April, 1959), 29.) the Rev. A. de Villiers, (*Ibid.*) local historian, Mrs Janie Malherbe, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 33.) Mr Leo Boyd, a leading civic personality, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.11] (July, 1959), 37 and 39.) Mr Leo Schwarz, the Student Counsellor of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, (*Ibid.*) Fritz Schuurman, Durban's Musical Director, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 33.) Dr Pauline Klenerman, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.8] (April, 1960), 35.) Miss Volaine Junod, a prominent member of the Liberal Party and a widely known public speaker, (*Ibid.*) John Field, the Assistant Director of the Royal Ballet, (*Ibid.*) Leonard Schach, the theatrical producer, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.11] (August, 1960), 35.) David Horner, the well known Durban actor, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.2] (October, 1960), 43.) Mrs A.T. Shrock, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.9] (May, 1961), 35.) and Mr V. Hepker, the Honorary Life President of the South African Jewish Orphanage, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.11] (July, 1961), 41.).

In July 1960, together with branches from other parts of the country, the Union's Durban branch participated in the National Conference on Education which was held in Durban. Many voluntary women's organisations in fact sent delegates to the Conference and a fair portion of the Conference's sessions were devoted to the role of voluntary organisations in adult education. The Durban branch of the Union took advantage of the opportunity to launch its own Adult Education programme. A demonstration study group was held by the Branch at the home of Mrs M. Perling. Mrs D. Hellman, the branch's chairman, presided and two of the speakers at the Conference, Mrs Doris Stephens, from the United States, and Mr John O'Mara, a lecturer at the Johannesburg College of Education, addressed the gathering.<sup>93</sup> The plans to start an Adult Education Programme, to be followed by the formation of Study Groups,<sup>94</sup> failed, however, through inadequate support, so that cultural activity within the Union remained restricted to the monthly functions arranged by the cultural convener.

As the principal branch of the Union of Jewish Women in Natal, the Durban branch maintained close contact with the smaller but no less active branch in Pietermaritzburg. Members of the Executive and Committee of the Durban branch frequently made the journey from Durban to

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<sup>93</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, July 29, 1960, p.17.

<sup>94</sup> *Bashalom*, [XXXVIII No.12] (August, 1960), 35.

Pietermaritzburg in order to attend important functions in the Natal capital.<sup>95</sup>

Through Interim Executive Meetings<sup>96</sup> and participation in the Union's National Conferences,<sup>97</sup> the Durban branch was also able to maintain close contact with the National Body and to share in decision-making and the formulation of national policy. These contacts with the Union's headquarters were reinforced by the visits of Miss Sallie Kussel, the National Organising Secretary,<sup>98</sup> and Mrs P. Mandelstam, the National President, who in 1958, was the guest of honour at the celebrations which were held to mark the 21st anniversary of the Durban branch.<sup>99</sup> As an integral part of the national organisation the Durban branch accepted its obligations in this regard by assisting in supporting the Toni Saphra bursary, which was granted annually by the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa to a woman, regardless of colour or creed, to

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<sup>95</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.9 (April, 1957), 25., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 27., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.2] (October, 1958), 37., *The Natal Mercury*, December 3, 1958, p.9.

<sup>96</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXV No.8 (March, 1957), 23., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.7] (March, 1959), 35.

<sup>97</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVI No.10] (June, 1958), 31., *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 35., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.6] (February, 1960), 25.

<sup>98</sup> *Hashalom*, XXXVI No.2 (October, 1957), 27.

<sup>99</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVI No.12] (August, 1958), 31 and 33.

enable her to complete an academic career in South Africa or overseas.<sup>100</sup> It similarly identified with its national body's support for the efforts of the Board of Deputies to assist the unaffiliated Jewish youth of the country by establishing a nursery to enable a student to attend the Summer School of Jewish Studies, run at Stellenbosch University during December 1959, by Mr Leo Schwarz on behalf of the Board.<sup>101</sup> The Union's Durban branch also arranged and ran the catering facilities for the Conference of the Federation of Students' Jewish and Zionist Associations which was held in Durban during 1959.<sup>102</sup> The Durban branch, furthermore, annually contributed a substantial sum towards the Union's contribution towards maintaining the Hillel Houses (the Jewish Youth Centres) at the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Grahamstown and Cape Town.<sup>103</sup>

Having evolved an effective framework through which to work for its objectives, the Durban branch of the Union of Jewish Women, from its office which it had acquired in

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<sup>100</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 61., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 62., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 57., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 65., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 73., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 67.

<sup>101</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.4] (December, 1959), 33.

<sup>102</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>103</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.4] (December, 1960), 43.

*Pioneer Building* in 1957,<sup>104</sup> continued to play a valuable and unique part in communal life. It continued to afford its members the opportunity to serve the wider community in which it functioned, as well as the Jewish community of which it was so important a facet, and at the same time played a not insignificant part in advancing and deepening the education of its members through its important cultural programme.

#### HEBREW ORDER OF DAVID

Notwithstanding significant constitutional changes within the Order during this period the F.C. Hollander Lodge continued to function with little apparent deviation from the pattern which it had formulated over the years, and to make its own unique contribution to Jewish communal life.

The nature of the Hebrew Order of David was radically altered at the Biennial Congress of the Order which was held in Johannesburg in June 1956. A resolution adopted at the meeting accepted the Grand Executive's recommendation that in view of the implications of the Friendly Societies Act which had come before Parliament, and which placed severe restrictions on such Societies, that the Hebrew Order of David should become a fraternal

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<sup>104</sup> *Hasholom*, XXXII No.6 (January, 1957), 27.



organisation as, and from, the 3rd June, 1956.<sup>105</sup>  
 Intimation of Parliament's intention had become known  
 some years previously<sup>106</sup> so that whilst this development  
 was hardly unexpected, it was, nevertheless, of considerable  
 significance. It meant that after functioning for  
 52 years on the basis of benefit membership, the Order  
 through its accredited representatives, had unanimously  
 taken the momentous decision that it no longer needed  
 constitutional authority in order to give effect to the  
 spirit of fraternity, which had, in fact, always been  
 the inspiration behind the movement.<sup>107</sup>

The transition of the Order from a Benefit to a  
 non-Benefit organisation was actually accomplished with  
 little difficulty, principally because for some  
 considerable time only a comparatively small number of  
 bretheren had found it necessary to take advantage of the  
 benefits which were constitutionally provided for.<sup>108</sup>  
 For those within the Order requiring medical aid or death  
 benefits such aid continued to be forthcoming from the  
 Order, within the scope of its practice of fraternity  
 which made every Brother's welfare, both material and  
 otherwise, the concern of every other Brother.<sup>109</sup> Those

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<sup>105</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1  
 (August, 1956), 65.

<sup>106</sup> *Ibid.*, XXVII No.1 (September, 1948), 71.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 65.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63.

<sup>109</sup> *Ibid.*

outside the Order no longer needed to gain admission to a lodge in order to acquire these benefits as many Jewish charitable bodies existed to cater for such necessities. Thus this development, although prompted by Government legislation was part of a process of natural development and expressed the Order's desire to adapt to the changed circumstances in which it was now operating.

The fraternal thinking which now prevailed within the Order found expression in the P.C. Hollander Lodge No.XI, through the continuation of its highly secretive charitable work which it undertook amongst members requiring such assistance.<sup>110</sup> It was revealed further, in 1956, through the inauguration of a scheme to enable the children of bretheren from up-country to enjoy a seaside holiday in Durban. This project bore its first fruits during the July holidays and met with such enormous success from bretheren in Durban, who enthusiastically opened their homes and extended their hospitality, that plans for developing the idea on an increasing scale were contemplated.<sup>111</sup> The holiday scheme grew with amazing rapidity, and in December 1956, was extended to include a number of children from the Arcadia, the South African Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg. It was also successfully repeated for the

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<sup>110</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 59., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 67.

<sup>111</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 65.

children of bretheren from the Transvaal during the April and July school holidays in 1957.<sup>112</sup> Discontinued largely for technical reasons, the project was revived in December 1961, when the Lodge embarked on a scheme to bring to Durban a large number of children solely from the Jewish Orphanage. The success which accompanied its revival led to approaches to the Orphanage authorities to make this an annual affair.<sup>113</sup>

Fraternal links with other branches of the Order around South Africa were sustained by the participation of representatives of Grand Lodge and sister lodges in other parts of the country, in the F.C. Hollander Lodge's annual installation of officers.<sup>114</sup> They were strengthened furthermore by the Durban lodge's representation at various functions held by lodges in other parts of the land, and in particular at the consecration of new lodges of the Order.<sup>115</sup> The bonds thus formed were reinforced through the participation of the F.C. Hollander Lodge in the Congresses of the Order that were held in Johannesburg.<sup>116</sup>

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63.

<sup>113</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 71.

<sup>114</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 65., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80.

The spirit of fraternity amongst the bretheren of the F.C. Hollander Lodge did not remain confined to the members of the Order but spilled over to include the entire Jewish community in which the Lodge operated. Bretheren continued to be active in virtually all the major Jewish institutions in Durban, the Order providing a fine training ground for such activities.<sup>117</sup>

Particularly close collaboration was recorded with the Durban Jewish Welfare Association, the members of the Lodge doing commendable work in the sphere of sick-visiting and the provision of transport, thereby setting an example to the entire community.<sup>118</sup>

Within the general community the Lodge retained its interest in the welfare of other population groups and provided, amongst other things, the annual Christmas fare to the patients of the King Edward VIII Non-European Hospital.<sup>119</sup> Through their Lodge the bretheren also continued to give support throughout the year to the

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<sup>117</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 65., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 71.

<sup>118</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 67., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80., *Ibid.*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 71.

<sup>119</sup> *Hasholom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXV No.1 (August, 1956), 65., *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63.

Chesterville Bantu Child Welfare Association,<sup>120</sup> and from 1958, organised the provision of Christmas cheer at the King George V Non-European T.B. Hospital.<sup>121</sup> The bretheren, furthermore, arranged the collection of books and magazines which were subsequently distributed to needy institutions.<sup>122</sup>

An important element in fostering a sense of brotherhood amongst the members and of strengthening the ties between bretheren, were the purely social activities such as dances and barbeques that were arranged by the Lodge's Entertainment Sub-Committee.<sup>123</sup> Equally important in this regard were the outstanding festive boards, an irregular feature of Lodge activity which included tea and refreshments, and which often featured

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<sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 59.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 59., *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80.

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80.

<sup>123</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 59., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 67.

notable public speakers.<sup>124</sup>

Attendance at Lodge meetings generally remained high due to the fine standard of cultural fare offered and as many of these talks were related to Jewish subjects, they adhered to the policy of the lodge of presenting matters of Jewish interest to members. A further case in point in this regard was the debate in 1959, between the lodge and the *Habonim* on the question of whether the Jew in South Africa was morally obliged to support the cause of the country's underprivileged peoples.<sup>125</sup> The Jewish orientation of these festive boards advanced the main object of the lodge which was to encourage and maintain amongst the members the knowledge of, and love for, the tradition and principles of Judaism.<sup>126</sup> To further this objective the lodge formed a Jewish Affairs Sub-Committee, in 1959, which took its first constructive step forward when it arranged a roster for attendance at

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<sup>124</sup> Including Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Pastor Rowlands of the Bethesda Mission in Durban; Mr Fritz Schuurman, Durban's Musical Director; Mr Michael Goldberg, a well known journalist; Dr B. Moshal, the President of the Council of Natal Jewry: (*Haskolom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63.) Mr David Hunt, the City's Town Planning Officer; Mr Gordon Brown of U.T.A. Airlines; Mr Justice Friedman, (*Haskolom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 59.) Dr David Jacobson, Mr Harold Freed, the local theatre personality; Mr Geoff Tollman, (*Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 67.) Mr Leo Boyd, a prominent Durban citizen and Mrs Bella Schmahmann, (*Ibid.*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 80.).

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 67.

<sup>126</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1958), 59.

mid-week morning services at Park Street Synagogue so as to ensure a *minyan*.<sup>127</sup>

Although no longer part of a Benefit Society the F.C. Hollander Lodge continued to show the same concern for the welfare of its members which it had in the past, whilst at the same time it strove to play its part in the life of the Jewish and Gentile community of its home City. Rooted in a deep commitment to Judaism and Jewish values it sought to inculcate those values in its bretheren and by the positive nature of its work assured for itself a secure and important position within the fabric of Jewish communal life..

#### SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH EX SERVICE LEAGUE

Although with each passing year the community's memories of the Second World War steadily diminished, for those within the League the camaraderie of those times and the obligations which each soldier had felt for his colleague, persisted in inspiring the members of the Ex-Service League to press on with their activities.

As in the past the League continued to be plagued by inadequate support from Jewish ex-servicemen. Those who did not require the League's assistance generally adopted the attitude that the war was over and should be forgotten.

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<sup>127</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.1] (September, 1959), 67.

The members of the League, whilst accepting that the war had ended were conscious that for some of their former comrades-in-arms its effects were still being felt. They believed that it was the responsibility of better-placed ex-servicemen to join the League so that it could assist those who experienced difficulties in respect of finance, pensions, jobs, etc.<sup>128</sup> Sufficient support for the ideals and principles of the League persisted, nevertheless, in order for the Durban branch to maintain a membership roll of approximately 270.<sup>129</sup>

In its efforts to aid ex-servicemen the League co-operated closely with the Soldiers' Assistance Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry.<sup>130</sup> It also inaugurated a very successful holiday scheme whereby a number of deserving ex-servicemen and their wives were able to enjoy a two week vacation in Durban at no cost to themselves.<sup>131</sup> In extending aid to its needy colleagues the League also ensured that the memory of those of its

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<sup>128</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1960), 72.

<sup>129</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 72., *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (September, 1961), 64.

<sup>130</sup> Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry. To be presented at the 25th Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 5th April, 1956, at 8 pm., p.9., Report of the Executive Committee of the Council of Natal Jewry, to be presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Durban Jewish Club, on Thursday, 12th April, 1962, at 8 pm., p.12.

<sup>131</sup> *Hashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 46.



number who had perished during the war was annually recalled at special commemorative services at the St. Andrew's Street Synagogue, where the Branch's Roll of Honour was preserved.<sup>132</sup>

For its own members the League provided a forum through which friendships could be formed and maintained and the social functions which its committee arranged were generally very well supported.<sup>133</sup> The highlight of the League's social programme remained the annual dance which, each year, continued to enjoy the same high degree of success.<sup>134</sup>

Through its membership of the nationwide Jewish Ex-Service League, the Durban branch drew inspiration and encouragement in its work and strengthened the bonds between its own members and Jewish ex-servicemen from other parts of the country. The Durban branch conscientiously recognised its obligations to the Bursary Fund, which was the League's memorial to all fallen Jewish ex-servicemen, and devoted a large part of its efforts to raising money for this Fund which assisted

<sup>132</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.4] (December, 1958), 33., *Ibid.*, [XXXVIII No.2] (October, 1959), 37.

<sup>133</sup> *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, July 1, 1960, p.17.

<sup>134</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XXXVIII No.1] (September, 1959), 66., *Hashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 46., *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 67.

the dependants of ex-servicemen.<sup>135</sup> Its contact with the other branches of the League was renewed biennially at the Organisation's National Congresses<sup>136</sup> which the Durban branch had the pleasure of hosting in 1961. The importance which the Civic authorities attached to the Congress being held in Durban was reflected in the reception which the Mayor and City Council arranged for all delegates to the Congress, and in the attendance of the Mayor, Councillor C.A. Milne, at the opening function.<sup>137</sup> At the conclusion of the Congress's deliberations the delegates paid homage to their fallen comrades at the Cenotaph in the Town Gardens where the League's National President, Mr A.B. Klipin, laid a wreath.<sup>138</sup>

In addition to its links with Jewish ex-servicemen the League retained its contacts with other ex-servicemen's organisations, notably the British Commonwealth Ex-Service League, on whose local committee it continued

<sup>135</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *The Zionist Record and South African Jewish Chronicle*, July 1, 1960, p.17., *Hashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 46., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XLI No.1] (September, 1962), 67.

<sup>136</sup> *Hashalom Rosh Hashonah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63., *Hashalom*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 33.

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*, [XL No.1] (November, 1961), 46.

<sup>138</sup> *The Natal Mercury*, May 13, 1961, p.4.

to serve.<sup>139</sup> In 1960, the League's Chairman, Mr Bernard Lindsay, presented an Israeli flag to the chairman of the local branch of the B.C.E.S.L., and this was duly hung, together with the flags of other Allied nations, in the vestibule of honour in the B.C.E.S.L.'s local headquarters.<sup>140</sup> The flag served as a perpetual reminder of the contribution which had been made to the Allied cause during World War II by Jewish soldiers from Palestine and the Allied countries.

Although like most other organisations of a similar nature, the League experienced a certain amount of antipathy as the war years became a distant memory, in contrast to these other organisations it succeeded in sustaining its numbers and in improving its financial position. This was largely attributable to the fact that the League did not remain static, nor were its energies solely confined to work amongst ex-servicemen. Instead it involved Jewish ex-servicemen in communal life, thereby enabling them to make their own contribution to its enrichment and in this way it ensured the lasting relevance of the organisation.

Within the Jewish community the League contributed to the I.U.A.<sup>141</sup> and donated money to the Building Fund

<sup>139</sup> *The Zionist Record and the South African Jewish Chronicle*, July 1, 1960, p.17.

<sup>140</sup> *Ibid.*, and *Haskalom Roeh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 72.

<sup>141</sup> *Haskalom Roeh Hashanah Annual*, XXXVI No.1 (September, 1957), 63.

of the Durban Jewish Club,<sup>142</sup> and, together with the Jewish Club and the Zionist Council for Natal, it formed a special committee to entertain Israeli sailors.<sup>143</sup> The Durban branch of the League also contributed large amounts of money to both Jewish and non-Jewish charities,<sup>144</sup> a sign of its ongoing concern with improving the lot of its neighbours irrespective of their religious bonds.

The fact that in 1961, some sixteen years after the Second World War had ended, the League was still active and was still performing a meaningful role within the Jewish community and the wider society, testified to the soundness of its underlying motivation. Although it remained faithful to the conception of its founders by championing the cause of the ex-serviceman and providing for his material and social needs, the League, by its involvement in communal life, clearly indicated its acceptance of the realities of the world in which it functioned. It sought to play its own meaningful part in enhancing the quality of life and in preserving and enriching Jewish communal existence and therefore justifying its own continued existence.

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<sup>142</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>143</sup> *Hashalom*, [XXXVIII No.11] (July, 1960), 2-3.

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*, [XXXVII No.10] (June, 1959), 33., *Hashalom Rosh Hashanah Annual*, [XXXIX No.1] (September, 1960), 72., *Hashalom*, [XL No.3] (November, 1961), 46.

### CONCLUSION

The years between 1919 and 1961 were extremely significant for Durban Jewry, characterised as they were by a five-fold increase in the size of the Jewish population and by a flowering of Jewish communal life. From a community of only 1,644 souls<sup>1</sup> with two rival Orthodox Hebrew Congregations,<sup>2</sup> a Benevolent Society,<sup>3</sup> a Jewish Ladies' Guild<sup>4</sup> and a Literary Club and Zionist Association,<sup>5</sup> the Jewish community grew during the subsequent 42 years, both in size and in the variety and scope of its activities. By 1961, its numbers exceeded 5,323,<sup>6</sup> and the vibrancy of its communal life was sustained by its two religious congregations,<sup>7</sup> its fine

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<sup>1</sup> *The Zionist Record*, April 30, 1927, p.25.

<sup>2</sup> See above pp.4-5 and Chapter 4.

<sup>3</sup> See above p.4 and pp.124-128.

<sup>4</sup> See above p.6 and pp.124-125, 128-133.

<sup>5</sup> See above p.6 and pp.111-118.

<sup>6</sup> *Republic of South Africa Population Census 6th September, 1960, II. No.5 Reports on the Metropolitan Area of Durban*, Government Printer, Pretoria, p.24.

<sup>7</sup> See above Chapters 11, 15, 26, 31, 32, 41, 42.

schools,<sup>8</sup> its centralised welfare body<sup>9</sup> and a number of Zionist,<sup>10</sup> cultural, philanthropic and service organisations.<sup>11</sup>

Directing almost every aspect of communal endeavour were the Council of Natal Jewry<sup>12</sup> and the Zionist Council for Natal,<sup>13</sup> which enjoyed positions of pre-eminence within the fabric of Jewish communal life. Together with the Jewish Club<sup>14</sup> they fostered a spirit of unity amongst local Jewry which made Durban a model community in respect of its organisational life. With the emphasis on communal discipline and communal unity efforts to encourage diversity within the community were viewed with disfavour, as indeed were any challenges to the authority of those elected to lead the community. Unity thus fostered a sense of uniformity, with few Jews deviating from the model of the community's leaders who were generally affiliated to the Orthodox Congregation, without necessarily observing all that membership of this Congregation implied, and who found the fullest expression of their Jewishness in communal endeavours.

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<sup>8</sup> See above Chapters 4, 10, 17, 30, 35, 43.

<sup>9</sup> See above Chapters 38, 49.

<sup>10</sup> See above Chapters 7, 13, 18, 28, 37, 47, 48.

<sup>11</sup> See above Chapters 6, 8, 19, 30, 40, 49.

<sup>12</sup> See above Chapters 14, 29, 34, 46.

<sup>13</sup> See above Chapters 28, 37, 47.

<sup>14</sup> See above Chapters 5, 12, 16, 27, 39, 44.

The relative geographical isolation of Durban from other Jewish centres, coupled with the dominant Anglo-Jewish tradition, contributed further to the homogeneity of the community. Through the involvement of sections of the community in national organisations, such as the Hebrew Order of David, the Union of Jewish Women and the Jewish Ex-Service League and through communal links with the South African Zionist Federation and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Durban Jewry was not, however, cut off from the mainstream of Jewish life in South Africa.

For all its individuality and supposed distinctiveness, during this period of far reaching consequence for the Jewish people, Durban Jewry showed itself to be an integral part of the Jewish nation. It closely followed events in Palestine, sharing in the concern of its co-religionists for the rebuilding of its national homeland, and demonstrating, by its financial generosity and its support for the Zionist cause, its unswerving commitment to the Zionist ideal and the State of Israel.<sup>15</sup> Similarly it shared in the anguish and despair felt by world Jewry after World War I, in consequence of the hardship experienced by the Jews of Eastern Europe,<sup>16</sup> and its pain at having to witness the annihilation of so much of European Jewry during the

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<sup>15</sup> See above Chapters 7, 13, 18, 36, 47.

<sup>16</sup> See above pp.12-14.

Second World War was as intense as that felt by Jews elsewhere.<sup>17</sup>

The advancement of Jewish communal life in Durban took place against a background of shifting political and social circumstances within South Africa as a whole, which inevitably had some bearing on local Jewry. Changing political alignments, the struggle by Afrikaner nationalists for political dominance, the Union's entry into World War II and the political repercussions of the National Party's electoral victory in 1948, all in some way affected the Durban Jewish community, as indeed they affected all of South Africa's people. Living in Natal which, by virtue of the composition of its White population, was predominantly English speaking and was consequently dissimilar from the other Provinces. the Jewish community naturally imbibed the attitudes and opinions of its neighbours. It is therefore hardly surprising that the political views and imperialist sympathies characteristic of the voters of the Province were reflected in respect of national and local matters, in the attitudes and actions of members of the Jewish community who secured public office.<sup>18</sup> Interestingly, although they were generally unhampered by outward

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<sup>17</sup> See above Chapter 24.

<sup>18</sup> See above Hollander Memorandum p.153., Mr A. Goldberg's involvement in the Dominion Party, pp.406-409, 510-511., and the support shown by Jewish City Councillors in 1959 for the retention of the anthem *G-d Save The Queen*, p.1338.



manifestations of religious prejudice from participating at the highest level in public life, relatively few Jews from Durban in fact sought to secure public office. This was possibly due to the paucity of their numbers and the need to include those who were capable in Jewish communal affairs.

Having shared in the social and political vicissitudes of their country and in the process of rebuilding their people's national homeland the Jewish community of Durban had little reason to feel dissatisfied with their contribution to South Africa or Israel. Deeply conscious of their people's age old links with the re-established Jewish State, Durban Jewry had nevertheless for the most part, revealed a determination to remain in South Africa, and evidence of their intention of permanence was revealed in the diverse organisations and institutional buildings which they had established in their home city. In 1961, as South Africa, which had become a republic, stood on the threshold of a new era in its history Durban Jewry, no less than the country's other subjects, looked forward to the continued advancement of the country whilst at the same time it harboured the hope that its co-religionists in Israel would enjoy similar good fortune.

## APPENDIX

## OFFICE BEARERS OF MAJOR INSTITUTIONS\*

## DURBAN HEBREW CONGREGATION

- 1918-1919 Mr C.P. Robinson, President; Mr A.J. Cohen, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Leaman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, A. Simon, Trustees; Messrs F.C. Hollander, B. Smolensky, L. Hart, L. Davis, H. Lipinski, H. Hillman, B. Lurie, Committee.
- 1919-1920 Mr F.C. Hollander, President; Mr J. Leaman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, A. Simon, Trustees.
- 1920-1921 Mr F.C. Hollander, President; Mr J. Leaman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, A. Simon, Trustees.
- 1921-1922 Mr F.C. Hollander, President; Mr J. Leaman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, A. Simon, Trustees.
- 1922-1923 Mr F.C. Hollander, President; Mr J. Leaman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees.

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\*List incomplete because sources, as explained in the introduction, were themselves not complete.

- 1923-1924 Mr F.C. Hollander, President; Mr S. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mr C.L. Greenberg, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees; Messrs A.J. Cohen, L. Davis, S.L. Jacobson, A.J. Lipinski, L.M. Braham, L. Hart, M. Stiller, Committee.
- 1924-1925 Mr F.C. Hollander, President; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees.
- 1925-1926 Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees; Messrs C. Lyons, L.M. Braham, S.L. Jacobson, L. Davis, L. Hart, A.J. Cohen, Committee.
- 1926-1927 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees; Messrs C. Lyons, L. Lipinski, S. Sevel, S.L. Jacobson, L. Davis, L.M. Braham, L. Hart, Committee.
- 1927-1928 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr S.L. Jacobson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees; Messrs L.M. Braham, B. Lurie, L. Davis, C. Lyons, J. Moshal, L. Hart, M. Lewis, L. Lipinski, S. Sevel, Committee.

- 1928-1929 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr L. Hart, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Secretary; Mr B. Lurie, Trustee; Messrs L. Lipinski, H. Hillman, C. Lyons, H. Moss-Morris, A.J. Cohen, L.M. Braham, L. Davis, C.L. Greenberg, S. Sevel, Committee.
- 1929-1930 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr L. Hart, Hon. Treasurer; Mr E. Isaacs, Hon. Secretary; Mr B. Lurie, Trustee; Messrs A.J. Cohen, C. Lyons, L. Lipinski, H. Moss-Morris, L.M. Braham, J. Greene, L. Davis, E.S. Henochsberg, S. Sevel, Committee.
- 1930-1931 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr L. Hart, Hon. Treasurer; Mr E. Isaacs, Hon. Secretary; Mr B. Lurie, Trustee; Messrs C. Lyons, A.J. Cohen, H. Moss-Morris, L.M. Braham, L. Lipinski, J. Greene, L. Davis, S. Sevel, E.S. Henochsberg, Committee.
- 1931-1932 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr B. Lurie, President; Mr M. Feigenbaum, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; Mr P. Wartski, Trustee; Messrs A. Berman, S.W. Brewer, M. Jackson, M. Lewis, S. Sevel, Jacobs, L. Hart, N. Meyerowitz, B. Levy, Committee.

- 1912-1933 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr B. Lurie, President; Mr N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; Mr P. Wartski, Trustee; Messrs S.W. Brewer, A. Berman, S. Sevel, A.J. Cohen, L. Davis, M. Jackson, B. Levy, M. Feigenbaum, J. Moshal, Committee.
- 1933-1934 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr B. Lurie, President; Mr N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; Mr P. Wartski, Trustee; Messrs L. Lipinski, A.J. Cohen, C. Lyons, M. Jackson, M. Lewis, L. Davis, S. Sevel, S.W. Brewer, J. Moshal, Committee.
- 1934-1935 Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Life Member; Mr B. Lurie, President; Mr J. Goldman, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees; Messrs M. Cohen, L. Lipinski, N. Meyerowitz, W. Smith, B. Levy, L. Davis, S. Sevel, S.W. Brewer, J. Moshal, Dr Hairman, Committee.

## DURBAN NEW HEBREW CONGREGATION

- 1918-1919 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr I. Lurie,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr A. Solomon, Hon. Secretary;  
Mr I. Rosenbach, Trustee.
- 1919-1920 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr A. Solomon,  
Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Rosenbach, Trustee.
- 1920-1921 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr A. Solomon,  
Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Rosenbach, Trustee.
- 1922-1923 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr A. Solomon,  
Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Rosenbach, Trustee.
- 1923-1924 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr M.K.  
Rosenbach, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid,  
Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Rosenbach, S.A.  
Nathanson, Trustees; Messrs E. Magid, P.  
Ditz, H. Stern, A. Goldman, M. Hackner, J.M.  
Shapiro, Committee.
- 1924-1925 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr C. Hirshowitz,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs I. Rosenbach and S.A. Nathanson,  
Trustees.
- 1925-1926 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr C. Hirshowitz,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs I. Rosenbach, S.A. Nathanson, Trustees;  
Messrs F.M. Levy, M. Woolfson, S. Goldberg,  
E. Magid, H. Patz, M. Solomon, Dr M. Byala,  
Committee.

- 1926-1927 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, President; Mr C. Hirshowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Rosenbach, S.A. Nathanson, Trustees.
- 1927-1928 Mr M.K. Rosenbach, President; Mr C. Hirshowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Rosenbach, S.A. Nathanson, Trustees; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, B. Fisher, E. Magid, B. Abelson, C.A. Levy, J. Byala, P. Ditz, Committee.
- 1928-1929 Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mr M.K. Rosenbach, President; Mr C.A. Levy, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary; Messrs E. Magid, S.A. Nathanson, Trustees; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Byala, S. Deen, F.M. Levy, S.A. Nathanson, B. Fisher, S. Goldberg, Committee.
- 1930-1931 Mr E. Magid, President; Mr C. Hirshowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary.
- 1931-1932 Mr E. Magid, President; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Secretary; Messrs J. Byala, N. Berts, M. Silverman, S. Schaffer, S. Deen, B. Patz, F.M. Levy, Committee.
- 1932-1933 Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr L.S. Ditz, Hon. Secretary.
- 1933-1934 Mr F.M. Levy, President; Mr L.S. Ditz, Hon. Secretary.
- 1934-1935 Mr F.M. Levy, President; Mr L.S. Ditz, Hon. Secretary.

## DURBAN UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION

- 1936 Mr B. Lurie, Chairman; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr J. Moshal, President; Mr L. Davis, Vice-President; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees. Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President; Mr N. Hertz, Vice-President; Messrs H. Patz, S.A. Nathanson, Trustees; Messrs W. Meyerowitz, M. Cohen, B. Levy, F.M. Levy, H.L. Magid, L.S. Ditz, T. Magid, Dr M. Byala, Council.
- 1936-1937 Mr B. Lurie, Chairman; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary. St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr J. Moshal, President; Mr L. Davis, Vice-President; Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees. Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President; Mr N. Hertz, Vice-President; Messrs H. Patz, S.A. Nathanson, Trustees, Messrs M. Stiller, B. Levy, J. Goldman, S. Goldberg, F.M. Levy, H.L. Magid, T. Magid, Dr M. Byala, Council.
- 1937-1938 Mr J. Goldman, Chairman; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary. St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr J. Moshal, President; Mr L. Davis, Vice-President;



Messrs P. Wartski, H. Lipinski, Trustees.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President;  
Mr N. Hertz, Vice-President; Messrs H. Patz,  
S.A. Nathanson, Trustees.

Messrs M. Stiller, F.M. Levy, T. Magid, E.  
Magid, B.L. Magid, B. Levy, M. Freed, J. Rubin,  
Drs M. Byala, A.J. Lindsay, Council.

1938-1939

Mr J. Goldman, Chairman; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon.  
Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr J. Moshal,  
President; Mr A.J. Cohen, Vice-President;  
Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President;  
Mr N. Hertz, Vice-President; Messrs H. Patz,  
M. Sapir, Trustees.

Messrs M. Freed, N. Meyerowitz, B. Levy, B.L.  
Magid, L. Davis, F.M. Levy, C. Lachman, C.A.  
Levy, I. Strous, Dr M. Byala, Council.

1939-1940

Mr N. Meyerowitz, Chairman; Mr S.W. Brewer,  
Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr I. Davis,  
President; Mr A.J. Cohen, Vice-President;  
Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President;  
Mr J.M. Shapiro, Vice-President; Messrs H.  
Patz, M. Sapir, Trustees.

Messrs B. Levy, M. Freed, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz,  
H.L. Magid, C. Lachman, F.M. Levy, N. Hertz,

J. Moshal, J. Klaff, Council.

1940-1941

Mr N. Meyerowitz, Chairman; Mr W. Smith, Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Cohen, Hon. Secretary.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L. Davis, President; Mr S.W. Brewer, Vice-President; Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President; Mr J.M. Shapiro, Vice-President; Messrs H. Patz, M. Sapir, Trustees.

Messrs M. Freed, B. Levy, M. Gaden, N. Hertz, J. Hackner, H.L. Magid, I. Strous, J. Moshal, J. Klaff, Dr N. Smith, Council.

1941-1942

Mr H.L. Magid, Chairman; Mr W. Smith, Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Cohen, Hon. Secretary; Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr S.W. Brewer, President; Mr M. Fine, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr D. Harris, President; Mr J.M. Shapiro, Vice-President.

Messrs L. Davis, B. Levy, M. Freed, H. Patz, N. Hertz, A. Kaplan, A. Foreman, M. Gadin, J. Klaff, Dr A.J. Lindsay, Council.

1942-1943

Mr H.L. Magid, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay, Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Cohen, Hon. Secretary; Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr S.W. Brewer, President; Mr W. Smith, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr S. Goldberg,

President; Mr M. Sapir, Vice-President.  
 Messrs H. Patz, M. Freed, N. Meyerowitz, A.  
 Foreman, L. Davis, S. Hackner, N. Hertz, A.J.  
 Cohen, A. Kaplan, E. Schragenheim, Council.

1943-1944

Mr H.L. Magid, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Cohen, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L. Davis,  
 President; Mr A.J. Cohen, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr S. Goldberg,  
 President; Mr M. Sapir, Vice-President.

Messrs H. Patz, A. Foreman, N. Meyerowitz,  
 H. Zulman, S. Hackner, M. Freed, I. Jacobson,  
 N. Hertz, M. Woolfson, A. Berman, Council.

1944-1945

Mr H.L. Magid, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon.  
 Secretary; Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr A.J. Cohen,  
 President; Mr M. Feigenbaum, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr F.M. Levy,  
 President; Mr H. Patz, Vice-President.

Messrs M. Cohen, M. Freed, O.B. Wesseik,  
 B. Kirson, N. Hertz, H. Silver, L. Leibowitz,  
 S. Goldberg, W. Smith, Dr A.H. Chanoch, Council.

1945-1946

Mr F.M. Levy, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L. Davis,

President; Mr N. Meyerowitz, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr M. Sapir, President;  
Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.

Messrs M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, M. Freed, S.

Hackner, E.S. Henochsberg, H.L. Magid, H. Patz,  
J. Rubin, L. Tannenbaum, Dr N. Smith, Council.

1946-1947

Mr F.M. Levy, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon. Secretary;  
Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L. Davis,  
President; Mr W. Smith, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr M. Sapir, President;  
Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.

Messrs E.S. Henochsberg, H.L. Magid, L.S. Ditz,  
H. Patz, M. Ehrlich, L. Tannenbaum, S. Hackner,  
M. Gevisser, I. Helman, Dr N. Smith, Council.

1947-1948

Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr I. Helman, Hon. Secretary;  
Mr H. Lipinski, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr W. Smith,  
President; Mr S. Narco, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President;  
Mr M. Sapir, Vice-President.

Messrs H.L. Magid, L.S. Ditz, H. Patz, L.D.

Brewer, F.M. Levy, M. Ehrlich, C. Adley, B.

Levy, L. Davis, M. Freed, Dr N. Smith, Council.

1948-1949

Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr S. Helman, Hon. Secretary;

Messrs H. Lipinski, H.L. Magid, Trustees.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L. Davis,  
President; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President;  
Mr R. Goldman, Vice-President.

Messrs L.S. Ditz, C. Adley, M. Ehrlich,  
L. Tannenbaum, B. Levy, H. Patz, F.M. Levy,  
M. Sapir, A. Baynash, Dr N. Smith, Council.

1949-1950

Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Chairman; Dr A.J. Lindsay,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Sandler, Hon. Secretary.

Messrs H. Lipinski, H.L. Magid, Trustees.

StAndrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L. Davis,  
President; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr M. Sapir, President,  
Mr R. Goldman, Vice-President.

Messrs I. Geshen, L.S. Ditz, C. Adley,  
E. Baynash, B. Levy, M. Cohen, A. Stillier,  
H. Patz, M. Freed, M. Ehrlich, Council.

1950-1951

Mr L.S. Ditz, Chairman; Mr A. Lurie, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr M. Sandler, Hon. Secretary;  
Mr H.L. Magid, Trustee.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr D.B. Wesseik,  
President; Mr E. Baynash, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr M. Sapir, President;  
Mr H. Patz, Vice-President.

Messrs C. Adley, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Cohen,  
B. Levy, M. Ehrlich, A. Levy, M. Freed, A.  
Stillier, I. Geshen, Dr N. Smith, Council.

- 1951-1952 Mr L.S. Ditz, Chairman; Mr M. Ehrlich, Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Lipinski, H.L. Magid, Trustees.  
St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr D.B. Wesseik, President; Mr E. Baynash, Vice-President.  
Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Patz, President; Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.  
Messrs C. Adley, M. Cohen, M. Freed, I. Geshen, E.S. Henochsberg, A. Levine, B. Levy, F.M. Levy, A. Stiller, Dr N. Smith, Council.
- 1952-1953 Mr I. Geshen, Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Behrmann, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L. Magid M. Freed, Trustees.  
St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr E. Baynash, President; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Vice-President.  
Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President; Mr C.H. Malatskey, Vice-President.  
Messrs C. Adley, A. Chait, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, E.S. Henochsberg, A. Levine, B. Levy, O. Lurie, H. Patz, Dr N. Smith, Council.
- 1953-1954 Mr I. Geshen, Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Behrmann, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L. Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.  
St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr E. Baynash, President; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Vice-President.  
Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President; Mr C.H. Malatskey, Vice-President.  
Messrs M. Cohen, C. Adley, A. Chait, A. Levine,

L.S. Ditz, M. Levitan, H. Friedland, A. Levy,  
L. Goldberg, O. Lurie, B. Levy, H. Patz, Dr N.  
Smith, Council.

1954-1955

Mr M. Cohen, Chairman; Mr A. Stiller, Vice-  
Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr A.W. Levy, Hon. Secretary, Messrs H.L.  
Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr D.B. Wesseik,  
President; Mr E. Baynash, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr C.H. Malatskey,  
President; Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.

Messrs C. Adley, L.S. Ditz, H. Patz, B. Levy,  
A.L. Schaffer, A. Chait, A. Levine, O. Lurie,  
B. Shotland, I. Geshen, Dr N. Smith, Council.

1955-1956

Mr M. Cohen, Chairman; Mr A. Stiller, Vice-  
Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr A.W. Levy, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L.  
Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr D.B. Wesseik,  
President; Mr L.D. Brewer, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr C.H. Malatskey,  
President; Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.

Messrs A. Levine, O. Lurie, C. Adley, E. Baynash,  
H. Patz, A.L. Schaffer, L.S. Ditz, Drs G. Abel,  
R. Shatz, Council.

1956-1957

Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Dr N. Smith, Vice-  
Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr A.W. Levy, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L.

Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L.D. Brewer,  
President; Mr J. Rubin, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President;  
Mr C.H. Malatskey, Vice-President.

Messrs C. Adley, A. Chait, I. Cohen, I. Geshen,  
A. Levine, H. Patz, A.L. Schaffer, M. Sacks,  
L. Tannenbaum, Dr R. Shatz, Council.

1957-1958

Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Dr N. Smith, Vice-  
Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr A.W. Levy, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L.  
Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L.D. Brewer,  
President; Mr J. Rubin, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President;  
Mr C.H. Malatskey, Vice-President.

Messrs I. Geshen, C. Adley, A. Chait, I. Cohen,  
D. Faiga, M. Cohen, L. Hirshovitz, A. Levine,  
H. Patz, M. Sacks, A.L. Schaffer, Council.

1958-1959

Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Mr A. Levine, Vice-  
Chairman; Mr M. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr J. N. Katz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L.  
Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.

St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr J. Rubin,  
President; Mr L.D. Brewer, Vice-President.

Park Street Synagogue: Mr C.H. Malatskey,  
President; Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.

Messrs A. Stiller, M. Cohen, C. Adley, I. Cohen,



- 1959-1960 I. Geshen, L. Hirshovitz, A. Levy, H. Patz, M. Sacks, A.L. Schaffer, S.R. Taitz, Council.  
 Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Mr A. Levine, Vice-Chairman; Mr A.L. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.R. Taitz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L. Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.  
 St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L.D. Brewer, President; Mr J. Rubin, Vice-President.  
 Park Street Synagogue: Mr C.H. Malatskey, President; Mr H. Silver, Vice-President.  
 Messrs A. Stiller, C. Adley, I. Geshen, M. Cohen, I. Cohen, A. Levy, B. Isaacs, M. Sacks, H. Patz, A. Swil, Dr S.E. Silberman, Mesdames E. Marcus, G. Smith, R. Silbert, M. Zulman, Council.
- 1960-1961 Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Mr A. Stiller, Vice-Chairman; Mr A.L. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.R. Taitz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L. Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.  
 St Andrew's Street Synagogue: Mr L.D. Brewer, President; Mr J. Rubin, Vice-President.  
 Park Street Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President; Mr M. Sacks, Vice-President.  
 Messrs H. Patz, C. Adley, A. Levy, I. Cohen, A. Levine, M. Cohen, B. Isaacs, S.S. Fobb, I. Geshen, Dr S.E. Silberman, Mesdames M. Brewer, J. Edelstein, G. Smith, R. Stiller, Council.
- 1961-1962 Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr I. Cohen, Vice-

Chairman; Mr A.L. Schaffer, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr S.R. Taitz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.L.  
Magid, M. Freed, Trustees.  
Great Synagogue: Mr H. Silver, President;  
Mr L.D. Brewer, Vice-President.  
Park Street Synagogue: Mr M. Sacks, President;  
Mr D. Faiga, Vice-President.  
Messrs C. Adley, B. Isaacs, M. Cohen, H. Kaplan,  
S.S. Fobb, A. Levine, I. Geshen, H. Patz, M.  
Hackner, Drs N. Smith, S.E. Silberman, Mesdames  
A. Stiller, L. Rapeport, Council.

## DURBAN JEWISH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

- 1918-1919 Mr S. Bloom, President; Mr A. Berman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Moss, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, S. Sevel, Trustees; Messrs A.J. Cohen, M. Feigenbaum, B. Marcus, I. Lurie, A.T. Bloomberg, H. Ellis, A. Goldman, J. Rothstein, E. Harris, E. Magid, Committee.
- 1919-1920 Mr B. Smolensky, President; Mr M. Moss, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S. Morris, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, S. Sevel, Trustees; Messrs J. Rothstein, L. Davis, A. Berman, A.J. Cohen, S. Bloom, A.T. Bloomberg, J. Moshal, H. Ellis, M. Feigenbaum, E. Magid, Committee.
- 1922-1923 Mr S. Sevel, President; Mr A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Treasurer; Mr Ch. Blumenfeld, Hon. Secretary.
- 1923-1924 Mr S. Sevel, President; Mr A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs M. Moss, L.M. Braham, M. Feigenbaum, H. Ellis, E. Magid, L. Davis, A. Berman, S. Morris, J. Moshal, B. Fisher, Committee.
- 1924-1925 Mr S. Sevel, President; Mr A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs L. Davis, H. Ellis, S. Morris, M. Feigenbaum, C.L. Greenberg, L.M. Braham,

A. Berman, M. Moss, B. Fisher, J. Moshal,  
Committee.

- 1925-1926 Mr A. Berman, President; Mr B. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer; Mr I. Geshen, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs S. Sevel, L. Davis, L. Barnett, L.M. Braham, A.J. Lipinski, M. Feigenbaum, C.L. Greenberg, J. Moshal, J. Greene, E. Magid, Committee.
- 1926-1927 Mr A. Berman, President; Mr M. Feigenbaum, Hon. Treasurer; Mr I. Geshen, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Rothstein, Trustees.
- 1927-1928 Mr A. Berman, President; Mr L. Barnett, Hon. Treasurer; Mr I. Geshen, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs S. Sevel, N. Hertz, B. Fisher, E. Magid, M. Feigenbaum, B. Abelson, J. Moshal, L.M. Braham, Committee.
- 1928-1929 Mr A. Berman, President; Mr L. Barnett, Hon. Treasurer; Mr L. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs Ch. Blumenfeld, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs L.M. Braham, B. Fisher, M. Feigenbaum, C.L. Greenberg, I. Geshen, W. Levy, A.J. Lipinski, E. Magid, J. Moshal, S. Sevel, Committee.
- 1929-1930 Mr L.M. Braham, President; Mr L. Barnett, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Rubin, Hon. Secretary; Messrs J. Rothstein, S. Sevel, Trustees; Messrs

A. Berman, M. Feigenbaum, W. Levy, E. Magid,  
J. Moshal, I. Geshen, B. Berman, S.W. Brewer,  
B. Fisher, F.M. Levy, Committee.

- 1930-1931 Mr L.M. Braham, President; Mr B. Fisher, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr L. Rubin, Hon. Secretary.
- 1931-1932 Mr L.M. Braham, President; Mr B. Fisher, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr L. Rubin, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, J. Moshal, Trustees; Messrs  
A. Berman, J. Rothstein, L. Davis, I. Geshen,  
M. Moss, S.W. Brewer, J. Harn, B. Berman,  
F.M. Levy, Dr M. Byala, Committee.
- 1932-1933 Mr B. Fisher, President; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr L. Rubin, Hon. Secretary.
- 1933-1934 Mr B. Fisher, President; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr L. Rubin, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs  
A. Berman, B. Berman, J. Goldman, O. Hackner,  
S. Hackner, F.M. Levy, J. Moshal, L. Davis,  
Drs M. Byala, A. Broomberg, Committee.
- 1934-1935 Mr B. Fisher, President; Mr S.W. Brewer, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr B.J. Abelson, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, J. Rothstein, Trustees; Messrs  
L. Rubin, L.D. Brewer, J. Moshal, O. Hackner,  
J. Goldman, A. Rubens, A. Berman, I. Geshen,  
Drs M. Byala, I. Goldberg, Committee.
- 1935-1936 Mr B. Fisher, President; Mr O. Hackner, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr B.J. Abelson, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, S.W. Brewer, Trustees; Messrs

A. Berman, B. Berman, L.D. Brewer, I. Geshen,  
J. Goldman, J. Moshal, J. Rubin, L. Rubin,  
Drs M. Byala, I. Goldberg, Committee.

1936-1937

Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr O. Hackner, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Hon. Assistant  
Treasurer; Mr B.J. Abelson, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, S.W. Brewer, Trustees; Messrs  
A. Berman, B. Berman, L.D. Brewer, R. Cone,  
B. Fisher, J. Goldman, J. Rubin, Drs M. Byala,  
A.J. Lindsay, Committee.

1937-1938

Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr O. Hackner, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Hon. Assistant  
Treasurer; Mr B.J. Abelson, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, S.W. Brewer, Trustees.

1938-1939

Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr O. Hackner, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr B.J. Abelson, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs S. Sevel, S.W. Brewer, Trustees; Messrs  
A. Berman, B. Berman, C.I. Israel, B. Fisher,  
R. Cone, H. Cline, Drs M. Byala, A.J. Lindsay,  
Committee.

1939-1940

Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr O. Hackner, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs A. Berman, S.W. Brewer, Trustees; Messrs  
H. Zulman, L.Liebowitz, B. Berman, R. Cone,  
H. Cline, B. Fisher, I. Israel, Drs M. Byala,  
A.J. Lindsay, Committee.

- 1940-1941 Mr S.W. Brewer, President; Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary; Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs L.D. Brewer, I. Geshen, R. Cone, L. Liebowitz, H. Cline, C.I. Israel, S. Kahn, Dr M. Byala, Committee.
- 1941-1942 Mr S.W. Brewer, President; Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary; Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs L.D. Brewer, L. Liebowitz, R. Cone, H. Cline, C.I. Israel, S. Kahn, Dr M. Byala, Committee.
- 1942-1943 Mr S.W. Brewer, President; Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary; Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs H. Cline, L.D. Brewer, I. Geshen, S. Orlin, I. Phillips, S. Hackner, L. Liebowitz, B. Berman, Dr M. Byala, Committee.
- 1943-1944 Mr S.W. Brewer, President; Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary; Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs L.D. Brewer, I. Helman, I. Geshen, H. Kaplan, B. Berman, L. Liebowitz, S. Hackner, B. Kirson, I. Phillips, H. Cline, Committee.
- 1944-1945 Mr H. Zulman, President; Mr H. Cline, Hon.

Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 I. Geshen, L.D. Brewer, H. Kaplan, B. Berman,  
 L. Liebowitz, S. Hackner, I. Phillips, B.  
 Hyams, S. Narco, Committee.

1945-1946

Mr H. Zulman, President; Mr H. Cline, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr J. Moshal, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 I. Geshen, L.D. Brewer, H. Kaplan, B. Berman,  
 L. Liebowitz, B. Hyams, S. Narco, S. Hackner,  
 I. Phillips, Committee.

1946-1947

Mr H. Zulman, President; Mr L.D. Brewer, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 H. Cline, I. Geshen, B. Berman, D. Cline, C.  
 Adley, R. Silbert, H. Kaplan, L. Liebowitz,  
 C. Lachman, Dr M. Byala, Committee.

1947-1948

Mr H. Zulman, President; Mr L.D. Brewer, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr L. Liebowitz, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 R. Silbert, C. Lachman, B. Barnett, B. Berman,  
 C. Adley, D. Cline, H. Kaplan, I. Geshen,  
 H. Cline, Dr M. Byala, Committee.

1948-1949

Mr H. Cline, President; Mr R. Silbert, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr L. Liebowitz, Assistant Hon.



Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 B. Barnett, M. Freedman, B. Berman, H. Kaplan,  
 L.D. Brewer, M. Schaffer, H. Zulman, D. Cline,  
 I. Geshen, Dr M. Byala, Committee.

1949-1950

Mr H. Cline, President; Mr R. Silbert, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr M. Freedman, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 B. Barnett, D. Cline, B. Berman, I. Geshen,  
 H. Kaplan, L.D. Brewer, L. Liebowitz, H. Broude,  
 H. Zulman, Dr M. Byala, Committee.

1950-1951

Mr H. Cline, President; Mr R. Silbert, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr L. Liebowitz, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Trustees; Messrs  
 S. Hackner, B. Berman, O. Lurie, B. Barnett,  
 H. Kaplan, M. Freedman, H. Silver, H. Zulman,  
 I. Geshen, Dr M. Byala, Committee.

1951-1952

Messrs A. Berman, B. Berman, B. Fisher, Hon.  
 Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Cline, President; Mr  
 B. Barnett, Vice-President; Mr L. Liebowitz,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mr H. Silver, Hon. Assistant  
 Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs H. Zulman, I. Geshen, Trustees; Messrs  
 A. Baranov, M. Freedman, S. Hackner, H. Kaplan,  
 O. Lurie, B. Lindsay, R. Silbert, M. Schaeffer,  
 A. Wiseman, Dr M. Byala, Committee.

- 1952-1953      Messrs A. Berman, B. Berman, B. Fisher, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr B. Barnett, President; Mr R. Silbert, Vice-President; Mr H. Kaplan, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Klass, Hon. Assistant Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Zulman, I. Geshen, Trustees; Messrs A. Baranov, B. Lindsay, O. Lurie, H. Cline, M. Freedman, H. Silver, A. Wiseman, S. Hackner, L. Liebowitz, Dr S. Witten, Committee.
- 1953-1954      Messrs A. Berman, B. Berman, B. Fisher, Dr M. Byala, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr B. Barnett, President; Mr R. Silbert, Vice-President; Mr H. Kaplan, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Klass, Hon. Assistant Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Zulman, I. Geshen, Trustees; Messrs A. Baranov, H. Cline, M. Ehrlich, M. Freedman, S. Hackner, B. Lindsay, O. Lurie, L. Liebowitz, H. Silver, Dr S. Witten, Committee.
- 1954-1955      Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Dr M. Byala, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr B. Barnett, President; Mr R. Silbert, Vice-President; Mr H. Kaplan, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Klass, Hon. Assistant Treasurer; Mr M. Hackner, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Zulman, I. Geshen, Trustees; Messrs A. Baranov, H. Cline, M. Ehrlich, M. Freedman, F.M. Lapin, B. Lindsay, O. Lurie, L. Liebowitz, H. Silver, A. Wiseman, Dr S. Witten, Committee.

## DURBAN JEWISH LADIES' GUILD

- 1918-1919 Mrs I. Kahn, President; Mrs L. Hart, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames, L. Jacobs, J. Isaacs, A.J. Cohen, L. Davis, Gevisser, L.M. Braham, J. Rothstein, V. Robinson, A. Levine, S. Sugarman, E. Harris, C.P. Robinson, L. Feinberg, Committee.
- 1919-1920 Mrs F. Jacobson, Hon. Secretary.
- 1920-1921 Mrs C. Levisohn, President; Mrs B. Moseley, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Magnus, Hon. Secretary.
- 1921-1922 Mrs C. Levisohn, President; Mrs B. Moseley, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S.H. Jacobs, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames, A. Cohen, Anahory, M. Peskin, J. Lewis, C.A. Levy, L. Davis, S. Schaffer, C. Mayer, C. Romain, L. Hart, I. Kahn, S. Cohen, Committee.
- 1922-1923 Mrs C. Levisohn, President; Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs C. Greenberg, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames, L. Hart, I. Kahn, M. Morrison, S. Bloom, S.H. Jacobs, B. Hoffenberg, W. Levy, A.G. Scott, L. Liebowitz, H. Driman, C. Myers, S. Cohen, L. Leonard, M. Peskin, Committee.
- 1923-1924 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; Mrs A.J. Cohen, Vice-President; Mrs H. Lipinski, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S. Morris, Hon. Secretary; (Resigned November 1923)

- 1923-1924 Mrs A.J. Cohan, President; Mrs L.M. Braham, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Magnus, Hon. Secretary.
- 1924-1925 Mrs L. Hart, President; Mrs S. Bloom, Vice-President; Mrs B. Moseley, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S.H. Jacobs, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Leonard, Rom, B. Driman, C. Greenberg, J. Rothstein, H. Woolf, Festenstein, H. Goldberg, Sammel, H. Moss-Morris, L.M. Braham, C. Myers, I. Lurie, C.A. Levy, Committee.
- 1925-1926 Mrs C. Levisohn, President; Mrs Jacobson, Vice-President; Mrs B. Woolf, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs L. Jacobs, Hon. Secretary.
- 1926-1927 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President.
- 1927-1928 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; Mrs S. Bloom, Vice-President; Mrs I. Kahn, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Woolf, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames B. Berman, C.L. Greenberg, L. Leonard, E.M. Levy, B. Rothstein, H. Driman, L. Jacobs, I. Lurie, C. Myers, B. Smolensky, M. Woolfson, Committee.
- 1928-1929 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; Mrs S. Bloom, Vice-President; Mrs I. Kahn, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs D. Kentridge, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Hart, J. Rothstein, C.L. Greenberg, I. Lurie, C. Myer, N. Bernstein, R. Cone, P. Weinberg, H. Isaacs, A. Kempner, B. Smolensky, E.M. Levy, B. Berman, L. Leonard, A. Ritte, Committee.
- 1929-1930 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; Mrs S. Bloom,

- Vice-President; Mrs I. Kahn, Hon. Treasurer.
- 1930-1931 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; Mrs S. Bloom,  
Vice-President; Mrs I. Kahn, Hon. Treasurer.
- 1931-1932 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; Mrs S. Bloom,  
Vice-President; Mrs I. Kahn, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs H. Blumenfeld, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames  
L. Barnett, B. Berman, R. Cone, C.L. Greenberg,  
H. Goldstein, H. Hart, H. Isaacs, W. Jacobs,  
D. Kentridge, G. Hirschfield, B. Lax, M. Lewis,  
C. Lyons, B. Levy, N. Meyerowitz, H. Moss-Morris,  
J. Rothstein, R. Smolensky, L. Barnett, Committee.
- 1932-1933 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, President; (succeeded by Mrs  
H. Moss-Morris), Mrs L. Leonard, Vice-President;  
Mrs N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H.  
Blumenfeld, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames D.  
Kentridge, G. Hirschfield, H. Isaacs, R. Cone,  
C.L. Greenberg, R. Smolensky, L. Fobb, L.  
Barnett, S. Torf, B. Lax, L. Davis, C. Lyons,  
L. Jacobs, J. Rothstein, E.M. Levy, Committee.
- 1933-1934 Mrs H. Moss-Morris, President; Mrs L. Leonard,  
Vice-President; Mrs N. Meyerowitz, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mrs H. Blumenfeld, Hon. Secretary;  
Mesdames G. Hirschfield, B. Lax, L. Barnett,  
H. Isaacs, D. Kentridge, Fisher, L. Jacobs,  
R. Cone, C. Lyons, L. Davis, M. Freed, R.  
Smolensky, L. Fobb, S. Torf, P. Stein, Committee.
- 1934-1935 Mesdames J. Rothstein, L. Hart, Hon. Life  
Members; Mrs L. Leonard, President; Mesdames

R. Cone, E. Sexton, Vice-Presidents; Mrs P. Stein, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Blumenfeld, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, L. Jacobs, L. Davis, M. Lewis, M. Freed, L. Fobb, Fisher, S. Schaffer, M. Mandelstam, G. Hirschfield, L. Barnett, H. Isaacs, S. Torf, D. Kentridge, I. Smith, B. Lax, N. Smith, Committee; Mrs E.M. Levy, ex-officio.

1935-1936

Mesdames J. Rothstein, L. Hart, Hon. Life Members; Mrs L. Leonard, President; Mrs R. Cone, Vice-President; Mrs P. Stein, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Blumenfeld, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Barnett, L.S. Ditz, A. Broomberg, Fisher, L. Fobb, M. Duchen, D. Kentridge, G. Hirschfield, B. Lax, Hackner, N. Meyerowitz, E. Sexton, H. Moss-Morris, S. Schaffer, Rothstein, S. Torf, Committee.

1936-1937

Mesdames J. Rothstein, L. Hart, Hon. Life Members; Mrs R. Cone, President; Mrs P. Stein, Vice-President; Mrs M. Duchen, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs O. Hackner, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Hart, L. Davis, L. Leonard, H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames G. Hirschfield, E. Sexton, Byala, S. Schaffer, L. Leonard, L. Fobb, Leon, H. Moss-Morris, A. Kaplan, M. Lewis, N. Smith, L. Jacobs, M. Mandelstam, H. Blumenfeld, S. Bloom, H. Driman, Committee; Mesdames N. Menachemson, A.H. Freedman ex-officio,

- 1937-1938 Mesdames J. Rothstein, L. Hart, Hon. Life Members; Mrs H. Moss-Morris, President; Mrs P. Stein, Vice-President; Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs O. Hackner, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Hart, L. Davis, Trustees; Mesdames G. Hirschfield, S.J. Kaplan, L. Fobb, L. Lipinski, M. Lewis, L. Jacobs, M. Freed, L. Leonard, S. Bloem, R. Cone, N. Meyerowitz, H. Blumenfeld, J. Goldman, A.J. Lindsay, V. Robinson, A. Kaplan, Committee; Mesdames N. Menachemson, A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.
- 1938-1939 Mesdames L. Hart, J. Rothstein, Hon. Life Members; Mrs P. Stein, President; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, G. Hirschfield, Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs O. Hackner, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Hart, L. Davis, Trustees; Mesdames A. Bears, A. Brook, R. Cone, L. Fobb, M. Freed, B. Gordon, M. Hairman, L. Jacobs, S.J. Kaplan, A. Kaplan, M. Lewis, A.J. Lindsay, B. Levy, V. Robinson, L. Rubin, S. Schultz, Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, N. Menachemson, ex-officio; Mrs D. Hendler, Country Representative.

#### DURBAN JEWISH WOMEN'S GUILD

- 1939-1940 Mesdames L. Hart, J. Rothstein, Hon. Life Members; Mrs P. Stein, President; Mesdames

H. Moss-Morris, G. Hirschfield, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs G. Hackner,  
 Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis, L. Hart,  
 H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames L. Jacobs,  
 M. Lewis, B. Gordon, A.J. Lindsay, V. Robinson,  
 S. Schultz, W.A. Jacobs, L. Fobb, L. Rubin,  
 A. Kaplan, B. Levy, I. Geshen, A. Brook, A.  
 Beare, M. Freed, R. Cone, L. Leonard, Committees;  
 Mesdames A.H. Freedman, N. Menachemson,  
 ex-officio.

1940-1941

Mesdames L. Hart, J. Rothstein, L. Leonard,  
 R. Cone, Hon. Life Members; Mrs P. Stein,  
 President; Mesdames G. Hirschfield, L. Jacobs,  
 Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs M. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames H.  
 Moss-Morris, L. Hart, L. Davis, Trustees;  
 Mesdames W.A. Jacobs, B. Levy, E. Sexton,  
 V. Robinson, A. Kaplan, M. Freed, A.J. Lindsay,  
 M. Woolfson, A. Brook, S. Schultz, S. Fobb,  
 N. Meyerowitz, A. Miller, H. Moss-Morris,  
 L. Hart, L. Davis, M. Woolfson, Committee;  
 Mesdames A.H. Freedman, N. Menachemson,  
 ex-officio.

1941-1942

Mesdames L. Hart, J. Rothstein, L. Leonard,  
 R. Cone, Hon. Life Members; Mrs P. Stein,  
 President; Mesdames G. Hirschfield, L. Davis,  
 Vice-Presidents; Mrs N. Meyerowitz, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mrs M. Moshal, Hon. Secretary;



Mesdames L. Hart, L. Davis, H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames A. Kaplan, B. Levy, V. Robinson, M. Freed, L. Jacobs, A.J. Lindsay, H. Moss-Morris, M. Woolfson, S. Schultz, S. Fobb, A. Miller, W. Levy, Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, N. Menachemson, ex-officio; Mrs H. Duschnitz, German Refugee Committee Representative.

1942-1943

Mesdames L. Hart, R. Cone, L. Leonard, Hon. Life Members; Mrs A.H. Freedman, President; Mesdames G. Hirschfield, L. Davis, Vice-Presidents; Mrs P. Stein, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis, H. Moss-Morris, L. Hart, Trustees; Mesdames R. Cone, A. Kaplan, B. Levy, V. Robinson, M. Freed, L. Jacobs, M. Woolfson, S. Schultz, H. Moss-Morris, L. Fobb, A. Miller, W. Levy, B. Barnett, H. Kaplan, W. Smith, C. Adley, Committee; Mrs H. Duschnitz, ex-officio.

1943-1944

Mesdames G. Hirschfield R. Cone, L. Hart, L. Leonard, Hon. Life Members; Mrs A.H. Freedman, President; Mesdames L. Davis, P. Stein, Vice-Presidents; Mrs A. Miller, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis, P. Stein, H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames A. Kaplan, V. Robinson, B. Levy, L. Fobb, M. Freed, W. Levy, S. Schultz,

W. Smith, H. Kaplan, B. Barnett, L. Levy,  
C. Adley, B. Fisher, H. Moss-Morris, Committee;  
Mrs H. Duschnitz, ex-officio.

1944-1945

Mesdames R. Cone, L. Hart, L. Leonard,  
G. Hirschfield, V. Robinson, Hon. Life  
Members; Mrs A.H. Freedman, President;  
Mesdames L. Davis, P. Stein, Vice-Presidents;  
Mrs A. Miller, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Moshal,  
Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis, L. Hart,  
H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames C. Adley,  
A. Deen, J. Diamond, L. Fobb, M. Freed, H. Hart,  
L. Jacobs, H. Kaplan, S. Lazarus, B. Levy,  
W. Levy, S. Schultz, W. Smith, M. Woolfson,  
N. Zive, Committee; Mesdames F. Metzger,  
H. Duschnitz, ex-officio.

1945-1946

Mesdames R. Cone, L. Hart, L. Leonard,  
G. Hirschfield, V. Robinson, Hon. Life  
Members; Mrs M. Moshal, President; Mesdames  
V. Levy, A.H. Freedman, Vice-Presidents;  
Mrs A. Miller, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs C. Adley,  
Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis, L. Hart,  
H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames R. Abrahams,  
A. Deen, J. Diamond, L. Fobb, H. Hart, L.  
Jacobs, W. Jacobs, A. Kaplan, H. Kaplan,  
L. Liebowitz, A. Savell, S. Schultz, W. Smith,  
P. Stein, M. Woolfson, Committee.  
Mrs H. Duschnitz, ex-officio.

1946-1947

Mesdames L. Hart, G. Hirschfield, V. Robinson,

Hon. Life Members; Mrs M. Moshal, President;  
 Mesdames A.H. Freedman, J. Diamond,  
 Vice-Presidents; Mrs A. Miller, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs C. Adley, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Hart,  
 L. Davis, H. Moss-Morris, Trustees; Mesdames  
 R. Abrahams, L. Fobb, H. Hart, L. Jacobs,  
 A. Kaplan, S. Katz, H. Kaplan, L. Liebowitz,  
 B. Futerman, J. Orden, A. Savell, S. Schultz,  
 P. Stein, H. Silver, M. Woolfson, N. Zive,  
 Committee; Mrs H. Duschnitz, ex-officio.

1947-1948

Mesdames L. Hart, G. Hirschfield, V. Robinson,  
 L. Fobb, Hon. Life Members; Mrs M. Moshal,  
 President; Mesdames J. Diamond, S. Schultz,  
 Vice-Presidents; Mrs A. Miller, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs C. Adley, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis,  
 H. Moss-Morris, P. Stein, Trustees; Mesdames  
 R. Abrahams, L. Jacobs, S. Katz, A. Beare,  
 A. Kaplan, B. Futerman, H. Kaplan, H.M. Hart,  
 L. Liebowitz, J. Orden, A. Savell, M. Woolfson,  
 N. Zive, S.D. Samuels, H. Silver, H. Stange,  
 Committee; Mesdames F. Metzger, A.H. Freedman,  
 A.M. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1948-1949

Mesdames L. Leonard, L. Hart, V. Robinson,  
 L. Fobb, Hon. Life Members; Mrs M. Woolfson,  
 Hon. Vice-President; Mrs J. Diamond, President;  
 Mesdames M. Moshal, J. Orden, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mrs H. Kaplan, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange,  
 Hon. Assistant Treasurer; Mrs C. Adley, Hon.

Secretary: Mesdames L. Jacobs, L. Davis,  
 P. Stein, Trustees: Mesdames S. Katz, A. Beare,  
 A. Kaplan, E. Deift, L. Liebowitz, B. Futerman,  
 A. Miller, H.M. Hart, S. Samuels, V. Hart,  
 A. Savell, N. Zive, A. Stiller, H. Segal,  
 H. Silver, S. Schultz, Committee; Mesdames  
 F. Metzger, A.H. Freedman, A.M. Kaplan,  
 ex-officio.

1949-1950

Mesdames L. Leonard, L. Hart, V. Robinson,  
 L. Fobb, H. Moss-Morris, G. Hirschfield, Hon.  
 Life Members; Mrs J. Diamond, President;  
 Mrs L. Jacobs, Vice-President; Mrs H. Kaplan,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mrs C. Adley, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mesdames P. Stein, L. Jacobs, L. Davis, Trustees;  
 Mesdames A. Miller, A. Beare, M. Moshai,  
 B. Deift, H. Duschnitz, A. Savell, S. Schultz,  
 C. Hart, S. Katz, H. Segall, S. Samuel,  
 M. Woolfson, N. Zive, A. Stiller, H. Silver,  
 A. Woolfson, J. Orden, Committee; Mesdames  
 F. Metzger, A.M. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1950-1951

Mesdames L. Leonard, G. Hirschfield, L. Hart,  
 V. Robinson, L. Fobb, H. Moss-Morris, Hon.  
 Life Members; Mrs L. Jacobs, President;  
 Mrs J. Diamond, Vice-President; Mrs H. Kaplan,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mesdames P. Stein, L. Davis, L. Jacobs,  
 Trustees; Mesdames C. Adley, B. Deift,

B. Friedland, A. Beare, A. Miller, W. Berman,  
 L. Byala, M. Moshal, A. Savell, H. Silver,  
 M. Woolfson, S. Schultz, H. Segall, F. Weitzman,  
 N. Zive, A. Stiller, Committee; Mesdames  
 H. Swift, F. Metzger, A.M. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1951-1952

Mesdames L. Leonard, G. Hirschfield, L. Hart,  
 V. Robinson, L. Fobb, H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life  
 Members; Mrs L. Jacobs, President; Mesdames  
 H. Kaplan, A. Beare, Vice-Presidents; Mrs  
 H. Silver, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Stiller,  
 Hon. Assistant Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon.  
 Secretary; Mesdames L. Davis, P. Stein,  
 L. Jacobs, Trustees; Mesdames M. Woolfson,  
 C. Adley, M. Byala, B. Beck, A. Miller,  
 J. Diamond, B. Deift, H. Duschnitz, A. Woolfson,  
 M. Moshal, S. Schultz, A. Savell, H. Segall,  
 N. Zive, Committee; Mesdames H. Swift,  
 F. Metzger, A.M. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1952-1953

Mesdames L. Leonard, G. Hirschfield, L. Hart,  
 V. Robinson, L. Davis, L. Fobb, H. Moss-Morris,  
 Hon. Life Members; Mrs H. Kaplan, President;  
 Mesdames L. Jacobs, A. Beare, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mrs H. Silver, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Stiller,  
 Hon. Assistant Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon.  
 Secretary; Mesdames P. Stein, M. Moshal,  
 L. Jacobs, Trustees; Mesdames M. Byala,  
 M. Woolfson, B. Beck, H. Franks, B. Deift,  
 L. Brewer, J. Diamond, F. Weitzman, A. Miller,

- A. Savell, D. Silver, S. Schultz, C. Davidson,  
 B. Lindsay, Levine, Committee; Mesdames  
 H. Swift, F. Metzger, A.M. Kaplan, ex-officio.  
 1953-1954 Mesdames L. Leonard, G. Hirschfield, L. Hart,  
 V. Robinson, L. Fobb, H. Moss-Morris, L. Davis,  
 Hon. Life Members; Mrs H. Kaplan, President;  
 Mrs A. Beare, Vice-President; Mrs H. Silver,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Stiller, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mesdames P. Stein, L. Jacobs, M. Moshal,  
 Trustees; Mesdames N. Zive, M. Byala, B. Lindsay,  
 A. Savell, D. Silver, L. Jackson, L. Levey,  
 M. Woolfson, B. Deift, S. Schultz, J. Diamond,  
 F. Weitzman, H. Franks, C. Davidson, M. Sandler,  
 H. Segall, C. Green, Committee; Mesdames  
 H. Swift, F. Metzger, A.M. Kaplan, ex-officio.  
 1954-1955 Mesdames L. Leonard, G. Hirschfield, V. Robinson,  
 L. Fobb, H. Moss-Morris, L. Davis, R. Levisohn,  
 Hon. Life Members; Mrs N. Zive, Hon.  
 Vice-President; Mrs A. Beare, President;  
 Mesdames H. Kaplan, H. Silver, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mrs D. Silver, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Byala,  
 Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon.  
 Secretary; Mesdames P. Stein, L. Jacobs,  
 M. Moshal, Trustees; Mesdames F. Danin,  
 H. Woolfson, C. Davidson, B. Deift, J. Diamond,  
 C. Green, G. Hackner, L. Jackson, L. Levey,  
 B. Lindsay, A. Savell, S. Schultz, H. Segall,

D. Stange, M. Wolpert, M. Woolfson, Committee;  
Mesdames H. Swift, F. Metzger, A.M. Kaplan,  
*ex-officio*.

## DURBAN JEWISH WELFARE ASSOCIATION

- 1955-1957 Messrs A. Berman, B. Fisher, Dr M. Byala, Hon. Vice-Presidents: Mesdames L. Davis, L. Fobb, G. Hirschfield, L. Jacobs, L. Leonard, H. Moss-Morris, V. Robinson, P. Stein, the Rev. A. Levy. Hon. Life Members: Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr B. Barnett, Mrs A. Beare, Vice-Presidents; Mr F. Lapin, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon. Secretary; Mr H. Zulman, Mrs M. Moshal, Trustees; Mesdames L. Byala, B. Deift, R. Diamond, I. Kaplan, F. Metzger, A. Savell, A. Silver, S. Silver, G. Hackner, E. Schultz, Messrs A. Beare, A. Baranov, L. Fobb, H. Kaplan, A. Levine, R. Silbert, H. Silver, H.L. Magid, L. Eibowitz, O. Lurie, Council.
- 1957-1958 Messrs A. Berman, H. Cline, Dr M. Byala, Hon. Vice-Presidents: Mesdames L. Davis, L. Fobb, G. Hirschfield, L. Jacobs, L. Leonard, H. Moss-Morris, V. Robinson, P. Stein, the Rev. A. Levy, Hon. Life Members: Mr I. Geshen, President; Mrs H. Silver, Mr B. Barnett, Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Levin, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Silver, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon. Secretary; Mr H. Zulman, Mrs M. Moshal, Trustees; Messrs L. Fobb.



H. Kaplan, J. Klass, F. Lapin, A. Levy,  
 O. Lurie, M. Rosen, R. Silbert, H. Silver,  
 Mesdames L. Byala, A. Beare, B. Deift,  
 J. Diamond, A. Danin, G. Hackner, H. Kaplan,  
 E. Schultz, M. Woolfson, F. Metzger, Council.  
 1958-1959 Messrs A. Berman, H. Cline, Dr M. Byala, Hon.  
 Vice-Presidents; Mesdames L. Davis, L. Fobb,  
 G. Hirschfield, L. Jacobs, H. Moss-Morris,  
 V. Robinson, P. Stein, Hon. Life Members;  
 Mr I. Geshen, President; Mrs H. Silver,  
 Mr H. Zulman, Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Levin,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Silver, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mrs M. Moshal, Mr R. Silbert, Trustees;  
 Mesdames A. Beare, G. Hackner, H. Kaplan,  
 L. Byala, F. Danin, F. Metzger, S. Schultz,  
 J. Diamond, B. Deift, M. Woolfson, Messrs  
 L. Fobb, O. Lurie, H. Silver, H. Kaplan,  
 M. Rosen, J. Klass, B. Barnett, L. Liebowitz,  
 A. Levy, Dr D. Jacobson, Council.

1959-1960 Mr H. Cline, Dr M. Byala, Hon. Vice-Presidents;  
 Mr A. Berman, Mesdames L. Davis, L. Fobb,  
 G. Hirschfield, L. Jacobs, H. Moss-Morris,  
 V. Robinson, P. Stein, Hon. Life Members;  
 Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr A. Levy, Mrs  
 H. Silver, Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Levin, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mrs A. Silver, Assistant Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon. Secretary;

Mrs M. Moshal, Mr R. Silbert, Trustees;  
 Mesdames N. Zive, E. Schultz, M. Woolfson,  
 A. Beare, J. Diamond, A. Danin, B. Deift,  
 M. Byala, G. Hackner, I. Geshen, M. Hart,  
 H. Kaplan, B. Lazarus, Messrs B. Barnett,  
 M. Rosen, O. Lurie, H. Silver, P. Lazarus,  
 L.D. Brewer, S. Horwitz, L. Gower, L. Fobb,  
 H. Kaplan, L. Liebowitz, Council.

1960-1961

Messrs H. Cline, L. Liebowitz, Dr M. Byala,  
 Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mesdames L. Davis,  
 G. Hirschfield, L. Jacobs, H. Moss-Morris,  
 V. Robinson, P. Stein, Mr A. Berman, Hon.  
 Life Members; Mr I. Geshen, President;  
 Mrs H. Kaplan, Mr A. Levy, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mr H. Levin, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Silver,  
 Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange, Hon.  
 Secretary; Mrs M. Moshal, Mr R. Silbert,  
 Trustees; Mesdames A. Beare, L. Byala,  
 D. Deift, N. Zive, A. Zulman, B. Lazarus,  
 E. Schultz, M. Woolfson, H. Silver, M. Hart,  
 G. Kane, J. Diamond, A. Danin, I. Geshen,  
 G. Hackner, F. Jacobson, Messrs A. Defries,  
 L. Gower, B. Barnett, L. Fobb, M. Rosen,  
 O. Lurie, S. Kaye, H. Silver, B. Lazarus,  
 H. Kaplan, Council.

1961-1962

Messrs H. Cline, L. Liebowitz, Dr M. Byala,  
 Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mesdames G. Hirschfield,  
 L. Jacobs, P. Stein, V. Robinson, L. Davis,

H. Moss-Morris, Messrs A. Berman, I. Geshen,  
Hon. Life Members; Mr A. Levy, President;  
Mrs H. Kaplan, Mr L. Gower, Vice-Presidents;  
Mr H. Levin, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Silver,  
Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Stange,  
Hon. Secretary; Mrs M. Moshal, Mr R. Silbert,  
Trustees; Mesdames H. Silver, M. Woolfson,  
A. Beare, E. Schultz, I. Geshen, N. Zive,  
W. Waller, G. Kane, F. Jacobson, L. Byala,  
G. Hackner, J. Diamond, B. Deift, A. Danin,  
Messrs B. Lazarus, S. Stark, H. Kaplan,  
S. Kaye, J. Fisher, L. Fobb, H. Friedland,  
H. Silver, Drs D. Jacobson, G. Kane, Council.

## DURBAN JEWISH LITERARY CLUB AND ZIONIST ASSOCIATION

- 1918-1919 Mr S.A. Nathanson, President; Mr M. Lewis, Vice-President; Mr S. Shlom, Hon. Treasurer; Mr M. Moss, Hon. Secretary; *pro. tem*; Messrs L. Hart, H. Ellis, H. Ditz, H. Patz, B. Marcus, M. Fine, M. Stoker, M. Franklin, A. Woolfson, Mrs A. Woolfson, Miss J. Woolfowitz, Committee.
- 1919-1920 Mr J.A. Lewin, President; Mr M. Lewis, Vice-President; Mr B. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer; Mr T. Magid, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Ellis, M. Franklin, M. Morrison, E.B. Sandler, A.S. Sterne, I. Strous, A. Woolfson, M. Korb, S. Couzin, M. Levine, Committee.
- 1920-1922 Mr S.A. Nathanson, President; Mr S. Couzin, Hon. Secretary.

## DURBAN BN0TH ZION

- 1919-1921 Mrs M. Franklin, President; Mrs R. Rubin, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Wolpert, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames S.A. Nathanson, M. Kantor, M. Peskin, S. Schaffer, A. Berman, M. Morrison, Sugarman, Lewin, J. Shapiro, Miss C. Essers, Committee.

1921-1922 Mrs R. Rubin, President; Mrs S. Cohen, Hon. Treasurer; Miss C. Essers, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames M. Franklin, S.A. Nathanson, M. Kantor, A. Berman, S. Schaffer, M. Peskin, I. Davis, Sam Schaffer, Committee.

In 1922 the Durban Jewish Literary Club and Zionist Association and the *Enoch Zion* decided to amalgamate under the name of the Durban Zionist Association.

1922-1923 Mr S.A. Nathanson, President; Mrs S. Cohen, Vice-President; Mr A. Shapiro, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S. Schaffer, Mr M. Woolfson, Joint Hon. Secretaries; Messrs H. Ellis, L. Hammerstein, J.A. Lewin, I. Strous, N. Stern, Mesdames R. Rubin, M. Franklin, M. Peskin, S. Schaffer, M. Wolpert, Committee.

1923-1924 Mr L. Hart, President; Mr L. Hammerstein, Vice-President; Mr A. Shapiro, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S. Schaffer, Mr H.L. Jacobs, Joint Hon. Secretaries; Messrs M. Stone, J.A. Lewin, S.A. Nathanson, Mesdames S. Cohen, M. Franklin, M. Peskin, Sol Schaffer, S. Hackner, Committee.

1924-1925 Mr L. Hart, President; Mrs E.M. Levy, Vice-President; Mr S.A. Nathanson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr E. Saks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs N. Hertz, I. Strous, J.A. Lewin, A. Lieberman, I. Friedman, M. Stone, Capt. H. Lewis

Mesdames M. Franklin, S. Goldberg, S. Hackner, B. Halaban, N. Menachemson, Misses M. Shapiro, H. Ginsberg, Committee; the Revs E.M. Levy, N. Menachemson, H. Rubin, ex-officio.

1925-1926

Mr L. Hart, President; Mrs S. Cohen, Vice-President; Mr J.A. Lewin, Hon. Treasurer; Mr E. Saks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs C. Lyons, J. Lewis, M. Stone, M. Woolfson, J. Blumenthal, S. Sammel, N. Hertz, I. Freedman, Dr M. Byala, Mesdames M. Stone, E.M. Levy, B. Halaban, M. Morrison, I. Strous, P. Bass, M. Franklin, N. Menachemson, Miss M. Shapiro, Committee; the Revs E.M. Levy, N. Menachemson, H. Rubin, ex-officio.

1926-1927

Mr M. Stone, President; Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Vice-President; Mr J.A. Lewin, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J. Blumenthal, Hon. Secretary; Messrs L. Hart, N. Hertz, Hirschfield, P. Bass, A. Blumenthal, L. Shapiro, M. Moss, Drs M. Byala, N. Smith, Mesdames P. Bass, S. Cohen, A. Kaplan, B. Halaban, M. Stone, B. Abelson, M. Moss, Misses C. Essers, M. Shapiro, Committee; the Rev. & Mrs E.M. Levy, the Rev. & Mrs N. Menachemson, the Rev. & Mrs H. Rubin, ex-officio.

1927-1928

Mr N. Hertz, President; Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Vice-President; Mr B. Abelson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr P.N. Manham, Hon. Secretary.

1928-1929

Mr B. Hillman, President; Mrs S.J. Kaplan,

Mr M. Freed, Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Brown, Hon. Treasurer; Mr N. Hertz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs J.A. Lewin, P. Manham, J. Blumenthal, H. Moss-Morris, C. Lyons, P. Weinberg, J. Goldman, L.M. Braham, S. Bloom, S.J. Kaplan, W. Smith, L. Hart, M. Stone, S. Goldberg, S. Moshal, J. Greene, Dr Witkin, the Rev. E.M. Levy, Mesdames M. Morrison, B. Abelson, L. Davis, S. Cohen, W. Smith, L. Hart, H. Goldberg, Committee.

1929-1930

Mr M. Freed, President; Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Vice-President; Mr H. Brown, Hon. Treasurer; Mr N. Hertz, Hon. Secretary; Mr P.N. Manham, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Stone, D. Harris, J. Goldman, W. Smith, A. Goldberg, J.A. Lewin, J. Blumenthal, Dr N. Smith, Mesdames B. Abelson, N. Bernstein, W. Smith, L. Weinberg, S. Cohen, A. Goldberg, Miss E. Lutrin, Committee.

1930-1931

Mr M. Freed, President.

1931-1932

Mr M. Freed, President.

1932-1933

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman; Mr N. Hertz, Hon. Treasurer; Miss A.J. Horwitz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Stone, J.A. Lewin, E. Horwitz, M. Gevisser, W. Smith, J. Klachko, C.I. Israel, L. Shapiro, M. Goldberg, M. Freed, the Rev. N. Menachemson, Mesdames A. Kaplan, W. Smith, S.J. Kaplan, M. Gevisser, A. Lieberman,

H. Moss-Morris, Misses B. Kaplan, L. Stone,  
Committee.

1933-1934

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman; Mr N. Hertz, Hon.  
Treasurer.

1934-1935

Mr A. Rubens, Chairman; Mr N. Hertz,  
Vice-Chairman and Hon. Treasurer; Miss G.  
Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Freed,  
A. Kaplan, J.A. Lewin, M. Duchon, B. Fisher,  
D. Friedman, C. Israel, Drs A. Broomberg,  
M. Goldberg, Mrs L. Rubin, Committee.

1935-1936

Mr A. Rubens, Chairman.

1936-1937

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman; Mr J. Rubin, Hon.  
Treasurer.

1937-1938

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman; Mr J. Rubin, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr S.A. Ogus, Hon. Secretary;  
Miss L. Schaffer, Assistant Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs M. Freed, N. Hertz, S. Ernst, A. Goldberg,  
E. Ginsberg, W. Smith, E. Schragenheim,  
E. Lazarus, Shapiro, L. Rubin, J. Abelson,  
Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Rev. N. Menachemson,  
Committee.

1938-1939

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman; Mr J. Rubin, Hon.  
Treasurer; (succeeded by Mr E. Schragenheim)  
Mr S.A. Ogus, Hon. Secretary. (succeeded by  
Mr S. Ernst)

1939-1940

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman; Mr M. Freed,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr E. Schragenheim Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr S. Ernst, Hon. Secretary.



Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Rev N. Menachemson,  
Messrs N. Hertz, L. Rubin, J. Goldberg,  
E. Lazarus, W. Smith, J. Rubin, B. Roseff,  
L. Shandel, Mesdames S. Torf, A. Kaplan,  
M. Duchon, Committee.

1940-1941

Mr L. Rubin, Chairman; Mr W. Smith, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mr S. Ernst, Hon. Secretary;  
Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Messrs A. Kaplan, M. Freed,  
H. Moss-Morris, E. Schragenheim, N. Hertz,  
J. Goldberg, E. Lazarus, A. Frankel, M. Ehrlich,  
Committee.

1941-1942

Mr A. Kaplan, Chairman.

1943-1944

Mr A. Frankel, Chairman; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon.  
Treasurer.

1944-1945

Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Messrs M. Freed,  
M. Morrison, Hon. Presidents; Mr A. Frankel,  
Chairman; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr M. Ehrlich, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen,  
J. Goldberg, H. Hadany, N. Hertz, A. Kaplan,  
B. Kirson, W. Stone, L. Shapiro, R. Silbert,  
E. Schragenheim, L. Tannenbaum, the Rev.  
F. Metzger, Committee.

1945-1946

Mr M. Morrison, Hon. President; Rabbi A.H.  
Freedman, Messrs M. Freed, A. Kaplan,  
H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Vice-Presidents;  
Mr A. Frankel, Chairman, Mr H. Hadany,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr E. Jacobson, Hon. Secretary; Messrs

M. Ehrlich, B. Suttner, M. Fielding, L. Shapiro,  
J. Goldberg, E. Schragenheim, M. Goldberg,  
A. Goldberg, B. Kirson, S. Hackner, N. Hertz,  
the Rev. F. Metzger, Committee.

1946-1947

Mr M. Morrison, Hon. President; Rabbi A.H.  
Freedman, Messrs M. Freed, A. Goldberg,  
H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Vice-Presidents;  
Mr E. Jacobson, Chairman; Mr H. Hadany,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Treasurer.

1947-1948

Mr M. Morrison, Hon. President; Rabbi A.H.  
Freedman, Messrs M. Freed, A. Goldberg,  
H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr  
E. Jacobson, Chairman; Mr H. Hadany,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Treasurer.  
Mr W. Maltz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs  
M. Beitowitz, L. Brewer, A. Frankel, J. Ginsberg,  
N. Hertz, C.I. Israel, A. Levine, P. Patz,  
E. Schragenheim, L. Shapiro, the Rev. A.M.  
Kaplan, the Rev. F. Metzger, Committee.

1948-1949

Mr M. Freed, Hon. President; Messrs  
H. Moss-Morris, A. Kaplan, A. Goldberg, Rabbi  
A.H. Freedman, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr H.  
Hadany, Chairman; Mr J. Goldberg, Vice-Chairman;  
Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Basckin,  
Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Deift, M. Rothschild,  
W. Teichner, L. Frank, N. Hertz, L. Shapiro,  
M. Sandler, E. Jacobson, E. Levey, P. Patz,  
E. Manne, A. Levine, the Rev. F. Metzger,

Committee; Mr E. Schragenheim, ex-officio.

1949-1950

Mr M. Freed, Hon. President; Messrs A. Goldberg, A. Kaplan, H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Hadany, Chairman; Mr P. Patz, Vice-Chairman; Mr D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Basckin, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Deift, W. Teichner, S.W. Sulski, J. Goldberg, N. Hertz, L. Shapiro, A. Savell, E. Levey, E. Jacobson, E.M. Rosy, M. Rothschild, A. Levine, I.A. Miller, the Rev. F. Metzger, Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, ex-officio.

1950-1951

Mr M. Freed, Hon. President; Messrs A. Kaplan, A. Goldberg, H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Hadany, Chairman; Mr P. Patz, Vice-Chairman; Mr M. Rothschild, Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Lurie, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Berman, H. Silver, P. Deift, M. Beit, J. Goldberg, N. Hertz, I.A. Miller, A.M. Torf, D.B. Wesseik, E. Jacobson, E. Levey, D. Basckin, E. Rosy, A. Savell, A. Levine, L. Tannenbaum, L. Shapiro, S.W. Sulski, the Rev. F. Metzger, Committee.

1951-1952

Mr M. Freed, Hon. President; Messrs A. Kaplan, A. Goldberg, H. Moss-Morris, Vice-Presidents; Mr P. Patz, Chairman; Mr H. Hadany, Vice-Chairman; Mr M. Rothschild, Hon. Treasurer; Mr A.M. Torf, Hon. Secretary.

1952-1953

Messrs M. Freed, A. Goldberg, A. Kaplan, N. Hertz, D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Patz,

Chairman; Mr H. Hadany, Vice-Chairman;  
 Mr M. Rothschild, Hon. Treasurer; Mr A.M. Torf,  
 Hon. Secretary; Messrs I.A. Miller, L. Shapiro,  
 P. Deift, L. Swift, A. Levine, S. van der Veen,  
 M. Kolnik, L. Tannenbaum, J. Abel, C.H. Malatskey,  
 Dr G. Abel, the Rev. F. Metzger, the Rev.  
 A. Kaplan, Committee.

1953-1954

Messrs M. Freed, A. Goldberg, A. Kaplan,  
 N. Hertz, D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Presidents;  
 Mr M. Fielding, Hon. Vice-President; Mr P. Patz,  
 Chairman; Messrs H. Hadany, M. Rothschild,  
 Vice-Chairmen; Mr L. Hirshovitz, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mr A.M. Torf, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S.M. Berman,  
 S. van der Veen, L. Swift, S. Berkowitz, P. Deift,  
 L. Shapiro, C.H. Malatskey, B. Lazarus, Dr  
 G. Abel, Prof. I. Gordon, the Rev. A. Kaplan,  
 Committee.

1954-1955

Messrs M. Freed, A. Goldberg, A. Kaplan, N. Hertz,  
 D.B. Wesseik, Hon. Presidents; Mr M. Fielding,  
 Hon. Vice-President; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life  
 Member; Mr H. Hadany, Chairman; Messrs  
 M. Rothschild, L. Shapiro, Vice-Chairmen;  
 Mr L. Hirshovitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman,  
 Hon. Secretary; Messrs G. Beinart, A. Swift,  
 W. Stone, S. van der Veen, D. Friedman, S. Frame,  
 B. Lazarus, C.H. Malatskey, Dr G. Abel, the Revs  
 F. Metzger, A. Kaplan, Committee.

1955-1956

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, Hon. Presidents;

Messrs A. Levine, J. Goldberg, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life Member; Mr H. Hadany, Chairman; Messrs M. Rothschild, L. Shapiro, Vice-Chairmen; Mr L. Hirshowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs D. Beare, S. van der Veen, W. Stone, G. Beinart, S. Frame, E.M. Rosy, B. Lazarus, A. Rogoff, P. Patz, C.H. Malatskey, Rabbi M. Miller, Dr G. Abel, Committee.

1956-1957

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, Hon. Presidents; Messrs M. Freed, J. Goldberg, A. Levine, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life Member; Mr M. Rothschild, Chairman; Messrs L. Shapiro, S.M. Berman, Vice-Chairmen; Mr L. Hirshowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr G. Beinart, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mr A. Rogoff, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Hadany, S. Abrahams, B. Brazil, S. Frame, S. Horwitz, B. Lazarus, P. Patz, E.M. Rosy, W. Stone, J. Woolfson, Rabbi M. Miller, Committee.

1957-1958

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, Hon. Presidents; Messrs M. Freed, A. Levine, J. Goldberg, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life Member; Mr M. Rothschild, Chairman; Messrs L. Shapiro, S.M. Berman, Vice-Chairmen; Mr G. Beinart, Hon. Treasurer; Mr A. Rogoff, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Hadany, S. Abrahams, C. Woolfson, W. Stone, B. Brazil, S. Bilchik,

L. Summers, S.M. Berman, E.M. Rosy, P. Patz,  
M. Ehrlich, L. Hirshovitz, Dr A. Goldberg,  
Committee.

1958-1959

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, Hon. Presidents;  
Messrs M. Freed, A. Levine, J. Goldberg, Hon.  
Vice-Presidents; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life  
Member; Mr M. Rothschild, Chairman; Mr  
L. Shapiro, Dr A. Goldberg, Vice-Chairmen;  
Mr A. Rogoff, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman,  
Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Hadany, I. Fisher,  
C. Woolfson, Bagraim, B. Brazil, C. Tollman,  
G. Beinart, L. Summers, E.M. Rosy, W. Stone,  
S. Bilchik, L. Hirshovitz, P. Patz, Committee.

1959-1960

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, A. Levine, Hon.  
Presidents; Messrs M. Freed, J. Goldberg,  
A. Kaplan, W. Stone, Hon. Vice-Presidents;  
Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life Member; Mr L. Shapiro,  
Chairman; Dr A. Goldberg, Mr J. Woolfson,  
Vice-Chairmen; Mr A. Rogoff, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr S.M. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs  
E.M. Rosy, L. Summers, S. Bilchik, B. Brazil,  
D. Firer, G. Beinart, D. Levin, P. Patz,  
L. Hirshovitz, H. Hadany, M. Rothschild,  
Committee.

1960-1961

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, A. Levine, Hon.  
Presidents; Messrs M. Freed, J. Goldberg,  
A. Kaplan, W. Stone, Hon. Vice-Presidents;  
Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life Member; Mr L. Shapiro,

Chairman; Dr A. Goldberg, Mr D. Firer, Vice-Chairmen; Mr A. Rogoff, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Rothschild, S. Bilchik, J. Woolfson, J. Strous, B. Brazil, L. Hirshovitz, E.M. Rosy, D. Levin, R. Pogir, D. Lewis, B. Lazarus, Committee.

1961-1962

Messrs M. Fielding, N. Hertz, A. Levine, Hon. Presidents; Messrs M. Freed, J. Goldberg, A. Kaplan, W. Stone, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr S. Goldberg, Hon. Life Member; Dr A. Goldberg, Chairman; Messrs D. Firer, A. Rogoff, Vice-Chairmen; Mr J. Strous, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Pogir, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Bilchik, L. Shapiro, E.M. Savel, S.M. Berman, M. Rothschild, M. Perling, L. Hirshovitz, D. Lewis, C. Norton, E.M. Rosy, D. Levin, Dr D. Eidelman, Committee.

## DURBAN WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE

- 1933-1934 Mrs E.M. Levy, President; Mrs M. Freed, Vice-President; Mrs A. Kaplan, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames A. Goldberg, M. Shapiro, C.I. Israel, H. Moss-Morris, A. Lieberman, M. Wolpert, D. Kentridge, J. Fisher, Committee.
- 1934-1935 Mrs H. Moss-Morris, President; Mrs H. Freed, Vice-President; Mrs A. Broomberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames M. Shapiro, C.I. Israel, M. Wolpert, A. Kaplan, B. Gordon, C.R. Fridjhon, J. Fisher, A. Goldberg, D. Kentridge, Committee.
- 1935-1936 Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Chairman; Mrs A. Kaplan, Vice-Chairman; Mrs A. Broomberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Duchon, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames S. Torf, M. Shapiro, B. Futerman, Elion, H. Brook, A. Goldberg, M. Fielding, C.R. Fridjhon, C.I. Israel, J. Fisher, D. Kentridge, M. Hairman, Committee.
- 1936-1937 Mrs S. Torf, Chairman; Mrs M. Duchon, Vice-Chairman; Mrs M. Shapiro, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs L. Rubin, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames A. Broomberg, S. Moshal, P. Patz, B. Futerman, B. Gordon, S. Stiller, J. Leon, M. Fielding, O. Hackner, A. Kaplan, M.W. Kaplan, M. Wolpert,



## Committee.

1937-1938

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. President; Mrs S. Torf, Chairman; Mesdames M. Duchen, A.H. Freedman, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Shapiro, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs S. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames A. Broomberg, M. Wolpert, L. Rubin, A. Brook, M. Fielding, J. Rubin, P. Patz, J. Fisher, B. Futerman, B. Moshal, N. Menachemson, C.I. Israel, A. Kaplan, I.V. Katz, M. Lewis, Committee.

1938-1939

Mesdames M. Morrison, H. Moss-Morris, Presidents; Mrs S. Torf, Chairman; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, A. Broomberg, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Shapiro, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs C.I. Israel, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames S. Brook, M. Wolpert, L. Rubin, L. Davis, S. Moshal, J. Rubin, M. Freed, I.V. Katz, B. Futerman, M. Fielding, A. Kaplan, S. Garbus, M. Duchen, I. Geshen, Committee; Mesdames M. Lewis, N. Menachemson, ex-officio.

1939-1940

Mrs M. Morrison, President; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Vice-Presidents; Mrs A.H. Freedman, Chairman; Mrs A. Broomberg, Vice-Chairman; Mrs M. Wolpert, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I.V. Katz, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames M. Shapiro, I. Kaliski, C. Adley, A. Kaplan, W. Berman, L. Davis, C.I. Israel, I. Geshen, C. Davidson, M. Fielding, H. Friedland, L. Fobb, P. Frame, B. Futerman, M. Freed, Committee;

Mesdames M. Lewis, N. Menachemson, ex-officio.

1940-1941

Mrs M. Morrison, President; Mesdames  
H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Vice-Presidents;  
Mrs A.H. Freedman, Chairman; Mrs A. Broomberg,  
Vice-Chairman; Mrs P. Frame, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs I.V. Katz, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames  
C.I. Israel, M. Freed, L. Davis, M. Shapiro,  
M. Wolpert, A. Kaplan, M. Fielding,  
I. Kaliski, I. Geshen, S. Moshal, M. Duchon,  
M. Abelansky, S. Ernst, S. Schaffer,  
M. Woolfson, W. Smith, Committee; Mesdames  
N. Menachemson, V. Robinson, ex-officio.

1941-1942

Mrs M. Morrison, President; Mesdames  
H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, F.H. Kisch, Vice-  
Presidents; Mrs A. Broomberg, Chairman;  
Mrs I. Geshen, Vice-Chairman; Mrs P. Frame,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Berman, Hon. Secretary;  
Mesdames C.I. Israel, M. Freed, L. Davis,  
M. Shapiro, M. Wolpert, A. Kaplan, M. Fielding,  
I. Kaliski, S. Moshal, A. Levine, M. Abelansky,  
S. Schaffer, M. Woolfson, A.H. Freedman,  
M. Deift, M. Woolfson, A. Chanani, H. Galgut,  
E. Herman, I.V. Katz, Committee; Mesdames  
N. Menachemson, A. Goldberg, ex-officio.

1942-1943

Mrs M. Morrison, President; Mesdames  
H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, F.H. Kisch, Vice-  
Presidents; Mrs A. Broomberg, Chairman;  
Mrs A.H. Freedman, Vice-Chairman; Mrs P. Frame,

Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames M. Woolfson, M. Abelansky, L. Davis, M. Woolfson, M. Shapiro, C.M. Sarkin, S. Moshal, Lurie, Levy, D. Kentridge, H. Edelstein, M. Fielding, I.V. Katz, A. Kaplan, I. Kaliski, C.I. Israel, I. Geshen, Herman, M. Freed, W. Smith, Committee; Mesdames A. Goldberg, B. Kuperberg, ex-officio.

1943-1944

Mrs M. Morrison, President; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Vice-Presidents; Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Chairman; Mrs A. Broomberg, Vice-Chairman; Mrs P. Frame, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I.V. Katz, Hon. Secretary; Mrs H. Edelstein, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, L. Davis, M. Fielding, M. Freed, A. Kaplan, I. Geshen, M. Moshal, C.I. Israel, W. Smith, I. Kaliski, M. Shapiro, M. Woolfson, A. Goldberg, A. Bierman, D. Kentridge, M. Woolfson, H. Freed, L. Imber, A.W. Greenstein, J. Orden, S. Meltzer, E. Sacks, Committee; Mrs B. Kuperberg, ex-officio.

1944-1945

Mrs M. Morrison, President; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Vice-Presidents; Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Chairman; Mesdames A. Broomberg, I.V. Katz, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Rothschild, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Bierman, Hon. Secretary; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Mesdames H. Edelstein, M. Shapiro, C.I. Israel,

P. Frame, H. Freed, M. Fielding, J. Fisher,  
 Conveners; Mesdames L. Davis, M. Freed,  
 A.H. Freedman, M. Ehrlich, M. Woolfson, W.  
 Smith, B. Moshal, I. Geshen, A. Goldberg,  
 M. Moshal, M. Lewis, C. Lachman, S. Helman,  
 D. Kentridge, A. Kaplan, E. Sacks, Committee.

1945-1946

Mrs M. Morrison, Hon. Life President; Mesdames  
 H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-  
 Presidents; Mrs A. Broomberg, Chairman;  
 Mesdames C.I. Israel, H. Moss-Morris, Vice-  
 Chairmen; Mrs M. Rothschild, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs A. Bierman, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames  
 M. Fielding, M. Shapiro, H. Edelstein, P. Frame,  
 M. Moshal, H. Freed, A. Goldberg, J. Fisher,  
 Conveners; Mesdames I. Hackner, H. Freed,  
 S. Helman, J. Goldberg, V. Lipinski, E. Sacks,  
 M. Woolfson, Sewing Group Conveners; Mesdames  
 S. Avrich, L. Taylor, L. Stern, S. Bilchik,  
 J. Diamond, W. Smith, J. Sklarchik, A. Savell,  
 M. Lowenstein, C. Lachman, M. Freed, C.R.  
 Fridjhon, D. Kentridge, I.V. Katz, J. Friedlander,  
 A. Kaplan, Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman,  
 F. Metzger, ex-officio.

1946-1947

Mrs M. Morrison, Hon. Life President; Mesdames  
 H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-  
 Presidents; Mrs M. Fielding, Hon. Vice-  
 President; Mrs A. Broomberg, Chairman;  
 Mesdames A. Bierman, S. Bilchik, Vice-Chairmen;

Mrs M. Rothschild, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Bierman, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Goldberg, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Mesdames M. Woolfson, Blumenfeld, J. Diamond, M. Shapiro, A. Savell, H. Edelstein, S. Ernst, C.M. Sarkin, E. Sacks, B. Panovka, Feinberg, I. Fisher, P. Frame, B. Moshal, M. Lowenstein, V. Lipinski, A. Levine, C. Lachman, D. Kentridge, S. Kaye, A. Kaplan, A. Frankel, H. Freed, H. Hadany, S. Hackner, A. Goldberg, I. Goldberg, M. Freed, H. Friedlander, J.J. Friedman, I. Geshen, Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, F. Metzger, ex-officio.

1947-1948

Mrs M. Morrison, Hon. Life President; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Fielding, Hon. President; Mrs L. Bilchik, Chairman; Mesdames A. Broomberg, C.M. Sarkin, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs I. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Rothschild, Hon. Secretary; Mrs J.J. Friedman, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Mesdames A. Savell, M. Shapiro, B. Panovka, I. Moshal, J. Barnett, Blumenthal, P. Deift, J. Norris, J. Diamond, M. Lowenstein, M. Ehrlich, H. Edelstein, H. Lazarus, Frankel, C. Lachman, D. Kentridge, H. Freed, I. Geshen, H. Friedlander, A. Goldberg, A. Kaplan, J. Goldberg, N. Hertz, S. Hackner, H. Hadany, Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, F. Metzger,

A. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1948-1950

Mrs M. Morrison, Hon. Life President; Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Fielding, Hon. President; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon, Chairman; Mesdames A. Broomberg, M. Rothschild, A. Savell, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs I. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Rothschild, Hon. Secretary; Mrs H. Lazarus, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Mesdames A. Bierman, W. Blumenthal, C. Davidson, M. Deen, M. Whitehorn, S. Silver, P. Sacks, F. Proops, V. Driman, R. Levy, J. Ernst, S. Levy, R. Fiddel, H. Franks, Q. Levy, T. Kaplan, R. Freedman, D. Hellman, F. Galland, M. Geshen, P. Hackner, J. Green, Sewing Group Conveners; Mesdames J. Barnett, M. Shapiro, E. Silberman, J. Brodie, C. Shagam, R. Morris, L. Byala, B. Deift, I. Moshal, S. Miller, M. Edelstein, A. Freed, M. Lwoenstein, R. Levy, V. Friede, E. Goldberg, H. Friedlander, Q. Goldberg, E. Hadany, R. Greenberg, V. Levitan, G. Kaplan, M. Lachman, R. Klotz, C. Levine, Committee.

1950-1951

Mesdames H. Moss-Morris, S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mesdames M. Fielding, A. Broomberg, Hon. Presidents; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon, Chairman; Mesdames A. Savell, M. Rothschild, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs I. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer; Mesdames S. Ernst, M. Rothschild, Joint Hon.

Secretaries; Mesdames B. Deift, I. Greenberg, C. Shagan, R. Greenberg, C. Levine, R. Levy, I. Moshal, O. Schmahmann, R. Silbert, Conveners; Mesdames I. Feinberg, C. Shagan, R. Kentridge, Q. Goldberg, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames O. Schmahmann, R. Silbert, S. Bilchik, P. Deift, M. Sacks, B. Moshal, A. Levine, I. Goldberg, I. Greenberg, Central Executive; Mesdames M. Klein, F. Metzger, H. Swift, ex-officio.

1951-1952

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mrs S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mesdames M. Fielding, A. Broomberg, Hon. Presidents; Mrs A. Savell, Chairman; Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, M. Rothschild, I. Shagan, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs I. Fisher, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs M. Rothschild, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary; Mesdames H. Levy, B. Moshal, I. Israel, I. Greenberg, C. Levine, Conveners; Mesdames E.R. Sacks, D. Cline, G. Silberman, H. Hadany, M. Whitehorn, M. Cohen, J. Josephson, J.J. Friedman, H. Schaffer, E.R. Wacks, N. Zive, A. Rainart, M. Sacks, H. Silver, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames D. Beare, M. Byala, J. Eagle, R. Freedman, I. Goldberg, A. Kaplan, H. Levy, J. Panovka, S. Bilchik, B. Deift, S. Ernst, H.D. Freed, T. Greenberg, D. Kentridge, S. Michaelson, S. Shapiro,

R. Behrman, J. Diamond, I. Feinberg, P. Gitlin, I. Israel, W. Klotz, B. Moshal, W. Smith, Committee; Mesdames A.M. Kaplan, M. Klein, F. Metzger, M. Miller, H. Swift, ex-officio.

1952-1953

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mrs S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs A. Broomberg, Hon. President; Mesdames M. Fielding, I. Fisher, C.R. Fridjhon, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs A. Savell, Chairman; Mesdames M. Rothschild, I. Shagam, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs H. Levy, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I. Miller, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames B. Deift, B. Moshal, T. Greenberg, I. Goldberg, I. Shagam, J.J. Friedman, H. Freed, H. Levy, A. Levine, H. Edelstein, Conveners; Mesdames J. Sacks, M. Leonard, A. Zulman, G. Falcke, P. Hackner, J. Josephson, I. Fisher, S. Miller, F. Wacks, N. Zive, P. Sacks, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames R. Behrman, Woolf, W. Smith, G. Abel, S. Bilchik, H. Taylor, B. Spilka, M. Byala, J. Eagle, N. Smith, S. Ernst, G. Silberman, O. Schmahmann, R. Rom, H. Foreman, J. Ordin, R. Freedman, J. Panovka, J. Friedlander, G. Linder, P. Lazarus, D. Kentridge, A. Kaplan, C. Lachman, Committee; Mesdames A. Kaplan, F. Metzger, M. Miller, H. Swift, ex-officio.



1953-1954

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President;  
 Mrs S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs  
 A. Broomberg, Hon. President; Mesdames M.  
 Fielding, C.R. Fridjhon, Hon. Vice-Presidents;  
 Mrs M. Rothschild, Chairman; Mrs A. Savell,  
 Immediate Past Chairman; Mesdames I. Shagam,  
 S. Bilchik, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs J. Fisher,  
 Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Oshry, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary; Mrs R.  
 Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames A.  
 Levine, H. Edelstein, C. Lachman, B. Moshal,  
 T. Greenberg, I. Goldberg, I. Shagam, G.  
 Silberman, J.J. Friedman, H.D. Freed, B. Deift,  
 Conveners; Mesdames D. Cline, H. Saacks,  
 E. Leonard, J. Diamond, J. Werb, S. Solomon,  
 I. Cohen, I. Geshen, L. Abrahams, F. Wacks,  
 N. Zive, P. Sacks, L. Klass, R. Shotland,  
 E. Beare, H. Perling, Branch Chairmen;  
 Mesdames P. Silbert, M. Byala, G. Abel,  
 O. Schmahmann, I. Greenberg, W. Smith, B. Oshry,  
 N. Smith, B. Davidson, H. Greenspan, H. Manasse,  
 M. Kolnik, P. Lazarus, N. Hertz, H. Kaplan,  
 D. Kentridge, Committee; Mesdames H. Swift,  
 F. Metzger, M. Miller, A. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1954-1955

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mrs  
 S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs M.  
 Fielding, Hon. President; Mrs A. Savell,  
 Hon. Vice-President; Mrs M. Rothschild,

Chairman; Mesdames S. Bilchik, I. Shagam,  
 Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Kolnik, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs B. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A.  
 Bierman, Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert,  
 Provincial Convener; Mesdames H. Edelstein,  
 M. Lachman, T. Greenberg, B. Deift, I.  
 Goldberg, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, A.  
 Broomberg, H.D. Freed, C.R. Fridjhon, M. Byala,  
 B. Davidson, Conveners; Mesdames H. Perling,  
 R. Futerman, S. Manion, D. Kentridge, E. Wacks,  
 T. Kaplan, J. Josephson, E. Beinart, P. Sacks,  
 L. Klass, R. Shotland, S. Ernst, A. Goldberg,  
 R. Greenberg, Branch Conveners; Mesdames A.  
 Beare, G. Abel, P. Muller, E. Sacks, H. Levy,  
 J. Diamond, A. Kaplan, H. Duchon, H. Faiga,  
 L. Hirshovitz, L. Gevisser, N. Hertz, I.  
 Greenberg, M. Gottlieb, H. Greenspan, Committee;  
 Mesdames M. Miller, H. Swift, A. Kaplan, F.  
 Metzger, ex-officio.

1955-1956

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mrs  
 S. Torf, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs M.  
 Fielding, Hon. Life Member; Mrs A. Savell,  
 Hon. President; Mesdames A. Broomberg, C.R.  
 Fridjhon, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs S. Bilchik,  
 Chairman; Mesdames G. Abel, I. Shagam, Vice-  
 Chairmen; Mrs M. Rothschild, Immediate Past  
 Chairman; Mrs I. Shagam, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs B. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman,

Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames M. Rothschild, Q. Goldberg, M. Edelstein, C. Lachman, I. Greenberg, B. Deift, I. Goldberg, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, A. Broomberg, H.D. Freed, C.R. Fridjhon, B. Davidson, M. Byala, Conveners; Mesdames B. Lurie, S. Rifkin, M. Rom, P. Muller, S. Manion, O. Schmahmann, I. Shagam, H. Duchon, L. Josephson, L. Hirshovitz, A. Beare, J. Friedlander, I. Gevisser, M. Sacks, A. Savell, T. Greenberg, C. Tollman, H. Greenspan, L. Abel, G. Goldblatt, H. Lazarus, Branch Conveners and Committee; Mesdames M. Miller, F. Metzger, A. Kaplan, H. Swift, ex-officio.

1956-1957

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mesdames S. Torf, A. Broomberg, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Fielding, Hon. Life Member; Mrs A. Savell, Hon. President; Mesdames R. Silbert, C.R. Fridjhon, M. Rothschild, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs S. Bilchik, Chairman; Mesdames G. Abel, L. Hirshovitz, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs I. Shagam, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, H. Freed, M. Edelstein, M. Lachman, A. Levine, J. Friedlander, P. Lazarus, H. Greenspan, A. Broomberg, A. Savell, A. Beare, M. Freed,

J.J. Friedman, E. Baynash, H. Slot,  
 Conveners; Mesdames A. Schneider, L.  
 Josephson, L. Solomon, J. Eagle, H. Sudar,  
 M. Gottlieb, L. Stern, E. Beinart, M. Sacks,  
 B. Silver, M. Rom, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames  
 A. Benn, N. Fiddel, I. Gevisser, H. Hadany,  
 L. Lazarus, P. Muller, O. Schmahmann, R.  
 Cohen, B. Deift, J. Gevisser, G. Kaplan,  
 B. Lurie, E. Sacks, S. Defries, H. Duchon,  
 L. Gevisser, D. Lawson-Whatley, S. Manion,  
 S. Shapiro, Committee; Mesdames M. Miller,  
 F. Metzger, A. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1957-1958

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President;  
 Mesdames S. Torf, A. Broomberg, Hon. Life  
 Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Fielding, Hon. Life  
 Member; Mrs A. Savell, Hon. President;  
 Mesdames R. Silbert, C.R. Fridjhon, M.  
 Rothschild, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs G. Abel,  
 Chairman; Mesdames L. Hirshovitz, H. Freed,  
 Vice-Chairmen; Mrs L. Bilchik, Immediate  
 Past Chairman; Mrs M. Kolnik, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs I. Shagam, Membership Convener; Mrs B.  
 Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman,  
 Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial  
 Convener; Mesdames S. Manion, H. Edelstein,  
 C. Lachman, A. Levine, J. Friedlander, B.  
 Deift, H. Greenspan, A. Savell, A. Beare,  
 M. Freed, J.J. Friedman, Conveners; Mesdames

A. Schneider, B. Spilka, M. Cramer, H. Hadany, J. Josephson, M. Cohen, J. Eagle, H. Sudar, M. Gottlieb, H. Duchon, E. Beinart, M. Sacks, H. Silver, H. Taylor, H. Silbert, M. Rom, M. Sapir, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames N. Fiddel, A. Kaplan, S. Moskovitch, R. Cohen, G. Goldblatt, P. Lazarus, E. Sacks, S. Defries, W. Habermann, S. Mendel, S. Shapiro, I. Gevisser, N. Hertz, P. Muller, L. Stern, Committee; Mesdames A.T. Shrock, M. Miller, F. Metzger, A. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1958-1959

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mesdames S. Torf, A. Broomborg, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mrs M. Fielding, Hon. Life Member; Mrs A. Savell, Hon. President; Mesdames S. Bilchik, C.R. Fridjhon, M. Rothschild, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs G. Abel, Chairman; Mesdames L. Hirshovitz, H. Freed, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Kolnik, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Moshal, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames S. Manion, H. Edelstein, C. Lachman, A. Levine, J. Friedlander, S. Bilchik, R. Silbert, T. Greenberg, S. Shapiro, S. Moskovitch, M. Freed, A. Savell, A. Beare, J.J. Friedman, S. Mendel, Conveners; Mesdames C. Kaplan, A. Kaplan, J. Frankel, A. Wies, L. Josephson, N. Hertz, E. Beinart, M. Sacks,

H. Silver, H. Taylor, P. Silbert, M. Gottlieb, M. Rom, M. Sapir, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames M. Cramer, I. Gevisser, L. Lazarus, L. Stern, B. Deift, L. Gevisser, P. Muller, H. Sudar, H. Duchon, W. Habermann, R. Rubin, M. Woolfson, J. Eagle, S. Hodes, E. Sacks, N. Fiddel, G. Kaplan, A. Schneider, H. Greenspan, H. Levine, Committee; Mesdames A.T. Shrock, M. Miller, F. Metzger, A. Kaplan, ex-officio.

1959-1960

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President; Mesdames S. Torf, A. Broomberg, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mesdames M. Fielding, A. Kaplan, M. Freed, M. Lachman, B. Deift, Hon. Life Members; Mrs R. Silbert, Hon. President; Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, I. Shagam, B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs L. Hirshovitz, Chairman; Mesdames M. Rothschild, S. Bilchik, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs G. Abel, Immediate Past Chairman; Mrs M. Kolnik, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs J. Friedlander, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary; - Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames M. Gottlieb, P. Sacks, R. Rubin, C. Lachman, A. Levine, R. Greenberg, B. Moshal, I. Shagam, S. Moskovitch, J. Bagraim, H.D. Freed, A. Bierman, A. Savell, A. Beare, J.J. Friedman, S. Mendel, L. Abel, Conveners; Mesdames Neumann, H. Silbert, P. Sacks, H. Silver, C. Levine, G. Goldblatt,

H. Gurwitz, G. Stern, E. Beinart, E. Rosy,  
 M. Gottlieb, D. Kaplan, H. Lazarus, M. Rom,  
 M. Sapir, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames H.  
 Closenberg, H. Sudar, J. Sklarchik, M. Cramer,  
 H. Duchon, A. Tollman, S. Shapiro, A. Rogoff,  
 A. Levine, R. Fiddel, J. Fisher, H. Friede,  
 I. Gevisser, L. Josephson, N. Hertz, H.  
 Greenspan, J. Gurwitz, Committee; Mesdames  
 A.T. Shrock, M. Miller, F. Metzger, A.M.  
 Kaplan, ex-officio.

1960-1961

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President;  
 Mesdames S. Torf, A. Broomberg, Hon. Life Vice-  
 Presidents; Mesdames M. Fielding, A. Kaplan,  
 M. Freed, M. Lachman, B. Deift, E. Beinart,  
 Hon. Life Members; Mrs R. Silbert, Hon.  
 President; Mesdames I. Shagam, B. Moshal, G.  
 Abel, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs L. Hirshovitz,  
 Chairman; Mesdames S. Bilchik, P. Sacks, Vice-  
 Chairmen; Mrs M. Kolnik, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs  
 J. Friedlander, Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman,  
 Staff Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial  
 Convener; Mesdames E. Mallach, G. Manion, L.  
 Bilchik, R. Rubin, J. Fisher, C. Levine, R.  
 Greenberg, C. Shagam, A. Freed, S. Moskovitch,  
 L. Bagram, Conveners; Mesdames L. Neumann,  
 P. Sacks, S. Silver, M. Friedman, B. Goldblatt,  
 J. Woolfson, F. Sebba, E. Beinart, W. Klotz,  
 D. Rosy, D. Jacobs, Branch Chairmen; Mesdames

A. Savell, J. Gevisser, M. Cramer, M. Duchon,  
 H. Closenberg, L. Abel, G. Manion, P. Sacks,  
 L. Byala, S. Touyz, A. Brivik, A. Miller,  
 R. Levine, N. Hertz, B. Deift, C. Lachman,  
 A. Tollman, Committee; Mesdames A.T. Shrock,  
 M. Miller, F. Metzger, ex-officio.

1961-1962

Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Life President;  
 Mesdames S. Torf, A. Broomberg, Hon. Life  
 Vice-Presidents; Mesdames M. Fielding, A.  
 Kaplan, M. Freed, M. Lachman, B. Deift, E.  
 Beinart, Hon. Life Members; Mrs R. Silbert,  
 Hon. President; Mesdames B. Moshal, I. Shagam,  
 Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs S. Bilchik, Chairman;  
 Mrs L. Hirshovitz, Immediate Past Chairman;  
 Mesdames G. Abel, E. Mallach, Vice-Chairmen;  
 Mrs M. Kolnik, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs J. Goldberg,  
 Hon. Secretary; Mrs A. Bierman, Staff Secretary;  
 Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener; Mesdames  
 E. Mallach, G. Manion, M. Byala, A. Levine,  
 I. Gevisser, I. Shagam, A. Bierman, A. Kaplan,  
 C. Aberle, Abrahams, Tomkin, E. Zulman,  
 Conveners; Mesdames S. Firer, S. Brivik,  
 S.J. Berkowitz, M. Fielding, R. Rom, J. Fisher,  
 L. Goldberg, K. Brook, J. Sebba, E. Beinart,  
 M. Sacks, H. Silver, G. Neumann, S. Rifkin,  
 M. Rom, E. Gordon, G. Awerbuch, J. Frankel,  
 Branch Chairmen; Mesdames J. Bagraim, S. Bloch,  
 M. Cramer, C.R. Fridjhon, N. Hertz, R. Levitt,



D. Rosy, G. Stern, J. Woolfson, H.M. Barnett,  
H. Cloenberg, M. Fine, H. Greenspan, H.  
Levine, S. Moskovitch, S. Shapiro, A. Tollman,  
Committee; Mesdames A.T. Shrock, M. Miller,  
F. Metzger, A. Kaplan, ex-officio.

## ZIONIST COUNCIL FOR NATAL (EXECUTIVE ONLY)

- 1943  
Provisonal  
Executive
- Mr E. Schragenheim, Acting Chairman; Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Acting Vice-Chairlady; Mr N. Hertz, Acting Hon. Treasurer; Mr A. Frankel, Hon. Secretary.
- 1944-1948
- Mr E. Schragenheim, Chairman; Mr N. Hertz, Hon. Treasurer; Messrs A. Frankel, N. Hertz, H. Hadany, A. Kaplan, Durban Zionist Association; Mesdames A. Broomberg, M. Fielding, A. Goldberg, S. Torf, Durban Women's Zionist League; Misses P. Beinart, G. Aufrichtig, S. Hirschovitz, Mr B. Klug, Durban Zionist Youth Movement; Misses R. Blumenfeld, R. Woolfson, Durban Young WIZO; Messrs M. Freed, H. Moss-Morris, Mrs H. Moss-Morris, Co-options; Mr A. Goldberg M.P., ex-officio.
- 1948-1950
- Mr E. Schragenheim, Chairman; (succeeded by Mr J. Goldberg) Mrs M. Broomberg, Mr H. Moss-Morris, Vice-Chairmen; Mr N. Hertz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr P. Patz, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Levy, A. Levine, Mrs C.R. Fridjhon, Miss K. Beinart, Executive Members; Mr H. Freed, co-option.
- 1950-1952
- Mr J. Goldberg, Chairman; Mr A. Levine, Vice-Chairman; Mr P. Patz, Hon. Treasurer; Mr E. Jacobson, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Levy,

H. Hadany, Mrs L. Bilchik, Elected Members;  
 Representatives: Mr L. Caminsky, Pietermaritzburg;  
 the Rev. B.C. Kur, Vryheid; Mrs A. Savell,  
 Durban Women's Zionist League; Mrs A. Levine,  
 Jewish National Fund; Mr B. Lazarus, Durban  
 Young Israel Society; Mr H. Stein, *Habonim*;  
 Rabbi H. Swift, Rabbi M. Miller, Drs I. Goldberg,  
 N. Smith, Messrs A. Beare, S. Ernst, H.L. Magid,  
 Mrs M. Broomberg, Co-opted.

1952-1954

Mr J. Goldberg, Chairman; Mr A. Levine,  
 Vice-Chairman; Mr P. Patz, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mr I.A. Miller, Hon. Secretary; Mr H. Hadany,  
 Mesdames L. Bilchik, I. Rothschild, B.  
 Schmahmann, Elected Members; 24 Representatives;  
 6 Co-options; the Chairmen of the J.N.F.  
*Aliyah*, Medical, Maccabi, Sub-Committees;  
 Rabbi H. Swift, Rabbi M. Miller, the President  
 of the C.N.J., Provincial Convener of the  
 Women's Zionist Council of South Africa,  
 Chairman of the I.U.A., ex-officio.

1954-1956

Mr J. Goldberg, Chairman; Messrs A. Levine,  
 P. Patz, Vice-Chairmen; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Prof. I. Gordon, Hon. Secretary;  
 Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener of the  
 Women's Zionist Council of South Africa; Dr  
 I. Goldberg, Messrs H. Hadany, H.L. Magid,  
 M. Rothschild, Elected Members; Mrs I.  
 Rothschild, Chairman, Durban Women's Zionist

League; Mrs L. Bilchik, Chairman, J.N.F. Committee; by invitation.

- 1956-1958 Mr A. Levine, Chairman; Messrs A. Goldberg, H.L. Magid, Vice-Chairmen; Mr J. Goldberg, Immediate Past Chairman; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Fisher, Organising Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener of the Women's Zionist Council of South Africa; Dr I. Goldberg, Messrs P. Patz, A. Rogoff, E.M. Rosy, Elected Members; Chairman Durban Women's Zionist League; Chairman, J.N.F. Committee, by invitation.
- 1958-1960 Mr A. Levine, Chairman; Messrs B. Hadany, H.L. Magid, Vice-Chairmen; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Fisher, Organising Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener of the Women's Zionist Council of South Africa; Messrs N. Hertz, M. Kolnik, A. Rogoff, A. Miller, Elected Members; Invited members.
- 1960-1962 Mr H.L. Magid, Chairman; Mrs R. Silbert, Mr M. Rothschild, Vice-Chairmen; Mr A. Levine, Immediate Past Chairman; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.M. Berman, Hon. Secretary; Mrs R. Silbert, Provincial Convener of the Women's Zionist Council of South Africa; Mrs L. Bilchik, Vice-Provincial Convener;

Messrs N. Hertz, D. Firer, A. Rogoff, Mrs L. Bilchik, Elected Members; Mr S. Berkowitz, Chairman I.U.A.; Mr L. Shapiro, Chairman, Durban Zionist Association; Mrs J. Brooks, Editor *Zionist Digest*; Mrs S. Hodes, by invitation.

## DURBAN JEWISH CIRCLE

- 1919-1920 Mr S. Moshal, President; Mr M. Wolpert, Secretary and Treasurer; Messrs M. Lewis, B. Kahn and W. Cranko, Committee.
- 1920-1921 Mr B. Kahn, President; Mr M. Lewis, Vice-President; Mr H. Blumenfeld, Treasurer; Mr A. Rubens, Secretary; Miss F. Rubin, Assistant Secretary; Messrs W. Cranko, S. Moshal, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Jackson, M. Wolpert, Committee.
- 1921-1922 Mr B. Kahn, President; Mr M. Lewis, Vice-President; Mr H. Blumenfeld, Treasurer; Mr L. Levey, Secretary; Messrs S. Moshal, W. Cranko, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Wolpert, M. Jackson, Committee.
- 1922-1923 Mr B. Kahn, President; Mr M. Lewis, Vice-President; Mr H. Woolf, Treasurer; Mr M. Wolpert, Secretary; Messrs H. Blumenfeld, M. Jackson, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Cohen, Committee.
- 1923-1924 Mr H. Woolf, President; Mr H. Blumenfeld, Vice-President; Mr C. Lyons, Treasurer; Mr M. Wolpert, Secretary; Messrs B. Kahn, E.S. Henochsberg, A. Rubens, B.H. Bloom, Committee.
- 1924-1925 Mr H. Woolf, President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Vice-President; Mr C. Lyons, Treasurer;

Mr B.A. Levitas, Secretary; Messrs H. Blumenfeld, H. Moss-Morris, J.C. Creswick, B. Kahn, M. Wolpert, S. Moshal, A. Rubens, H.L. Magid, Committee.

- 1925-1926 Mr C. Lyons, President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, Vice-President; Mr B.H. Bloom, Treasurer; Mr L. Raphael, Secretary; Messrs H. Woolf, A. Rubens, S. Moshal, A.K. Nyman, M. Wolpert, H. Blumenfeld, H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Committee.
- 1926-1927 Mr C. Lyons, President; Dr B. Moshal, Vice-President; Mr B.H. Bloom, Treasurer; Mr L. Raphael, Secretary; Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, A. Rubens, H. Blumenfeld, M. Wolpert, H.L. Magid, I. Geshen, L.M. Braham, Committee.
- 1927-1928 Mr C. Lyons, President; Mr M. Wolpert, Vice-President; Dr B. Moshal, Messrs H. Blumenfeld, H.L. Magid, B.H. Bloom, I. Geshen, L. Raphael, L.M. Braham, M. Stone, A. Kaplan, Dr H.R. Goldberg, Committee.
- 1928-1929 Dr B. Moshal, President; Mr H.L. Magid, Vice-President; Messrs C. Lyons, S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, L.M. Braham, H. Lipinski, B.H. Bloom, L. Raphael, J. Goldman, I. Geshen, H. Isaacs, Committee.
- 1929-1930 Mr M. Wolpert, President; Mr B.H. Bloom, Vice-President; Dr B. Moshal, Messrs L.M. Braham, C. Lyons, H.L. Magid, S. Moshal, J. Goldman,

I. Geshen, H. Lipinski, N.E. Abrahams,  
F.M. Levy, Committee.

1930-1931

Mr M. Wolpert, President; Mr J. Goldman, Vice-  
President; Messrs I. Geshen, O. Ballin,  
S. Moshal, M. Cohen, N.E. Abrahams, H.  
Blumenfeld, A. Rubens, W. Cranko, H. Lipinski,  
Committee.

#### DURBAN JEWISH INSTITUTE

##### COUNCIL OF CONTROL

1926

Mr H. Hillman, Chairman; Mr F.C. Hollander,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr S. Moshal (Circle),  
Secretary; Mr H.L. Magid (Durban New Hebrew  
Congregation), Treasurer; Messrs S. Bloom  
(Durban Hebrew Congregation), L.M. Braham,  
(Hebrew Order of David), C. Lyons and  
H. Moss-Morris (Circle).

##### COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

1927

Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Mr L.M. Braham, Vice-  
Chairman; Mr H. Brown, Treasurer; Mr J. Smith,  
Secretary; Messrs E.S. Henochsberg, M. Gevisser,  
T. Schloss, J. Greene, A. Ritte, W. Cranko,



S.L. Jacobson, M. Wolpert, H. Isaacs, A.J.  
Lipinski, Committee.

1928

Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Mr L.M. Braham, Vice-Chairman; Mr H. Brown, Treasurer; Mr I. Smith, Secretary; Messrs E.S. Henochsberg, A. Ritte, T. Schloss, J. Greene, H. Isaacs, M. Wolpert, M. Freed, W. Cranko, M. Gevisser, H. Farber, Committee.

1929

Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Mr L.M. Braham, Vice-Chairman; Mr H. Brown, Treasurer; Mr I. Smith, Secretary; Dr B. Moshal, Messrs M. Gevisser, H. Brown, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Freed, H. Isaacs, T. Schloss, M. Wolpert, I. Kahn, J. Tobias, Committee.

1930

Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Mr L.M. Braham, Vice-Chairman; Mr J. Greene, Treasurer; Mr I. Smith, Secretary; Messrs H. Brown, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Freed, M. Wolpert, H. Isaacs, M. Gevisser, T. Schloss, B.H. Bloom, B. Fisher, M. Lewis, Committee.

## DURBAN JEWISH CLUB

- 1911-1912 Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Vice-President.  
 Council: Mr C. Lyons, President; Mr S. Moshal, Vice-President; Messrs L.M. Braham, M. Freed, M. Lewis, H. Brown, M. Gevisser, H.L. Magid, H. Moss-Morris, Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr M. Wolpert, Chairman; Mr W. Cranko, Vice-Chairman; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, O. Ballin, H. Blumenfeld, M. Cohen, I. Geshen, I. Gevisser, A. Goldberg, J. Goldman, E.S. Henochsberg, B. Lipinski, Mesdames S.J. Kaplan, H. Moss-Morris, Executive Members.
- 1912-1913 Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Vice-President.  
 Council: Mr S. Moshal, President; Mr H. Brown, Vice-President; Messrs L.M. Braham, M. Freed, M. Gevisser, J. Greene, C. Lyons, H.L. Magid, H. Moss-Morris, Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr W. Cranko, Chairman; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Vice-Chairman; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, H. Blumenfeld, S.F. Brews, M. Cohen, M. Fielding, A. Goldberg, J. Goldman, H. Lipinski, S.D. Smolensky, M. Wolpert, Dr A. Broomberg, Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Executive Members.
- 1913-1914 Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander,

Hon. Vice-President.

Council: Mr H. Brown, President; Mr M. Freed,  
Vice-President; Messrs J. Greene, C. Lyons,  
N. Meyerowitz, S. Moshal, E. Moss-Morris,  
M. Wolpert, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.  
Executive: Mr W. Cranko, Chairman; Mr E.S.  
Henochsberg, Vice-Chairman; Messrs B.H. Bloom,  
S.F. Brews, H. Freed, M. Cohen, M. Fielding,  
J. Goldman, A. Goldberg, H. Lipinski, S.D.  
Smolensky, Dr A. Broomberg, Dr Minnie Alper,  
Mrs C. Lyons, Executive Members.

1934-1935

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander,  
Hon. Vice-President.

Council: Mr C. Lyons, President; Mr J. Greene,  
Vice-President; Messrs H. Brown, M. Freed,  
S. Moshal, M. Stiller, N. Meyerowitz,  
M. Wolpert, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.  
Executive: Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Chairman;  
Mr H. Lipinski, Vice-Chairman; Messrs B.H.  
Bloom, S.F. Brews, M. Cohen, W. Cranko, L.S.  
Ditz, M. Fielding, D. Friedman, I.J. Greenberg,  
S.D. Smolensky, Dr A. Broomberg, Dr Minnie  
Alper, Mrs C. Lyons, Executive Members.

1935-1936

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander,  
Hon. Vice-President.

Council: Mr J. Greene, President; Mr M.  
Wolpert, Vice-President; Messrs H. Brown,  
W. Cranko, M. Freed, J. Goldman, S. Moshal,

M. Stiller, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Chairman;  
 Mr H. Lipinski, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J. Adley,  
 L.S. Ditz, J. Elias, D. Friedman, I.J. Greenberg,  
 L. Rubin, I. Smith, S.D. Smolensky, A. Stiller,  
 Drs P.M. Bloom, A. Broomberg, I. Goldberg,  
 Executive Members.

1936-1937

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Messrs F.C.  
 Hollander, C. Lyons, H. Brown, Hon. Vice-  
 Presidents.

Council: Mr M. Wolpert, President; Dr B.  
 Moshal, Vice-President; Messrs B.H. Bloom,  
 W. Cranko, M. Fielding, J. Goldman, J. Greene,  
 S. Moshal, M. Stiller, Council Members.

Executive: Mr H. Lipinski, Chairman; Mr L.S.  
 Ditz, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J. Adley, C.R.  
 Fridjhon, I.J. Greenberg, E.S. Henochsberg,  
 A. Rubens, L. Rubin, I. Smith, S.D. Smolensky,  
 M. Solomon, A. Stiller, Drs P.M. Bloom, I.  
 Goldberg, Executive Members.

1937-1938

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Messrs F.C.  
 Hollander, C. Lyons, H. Brown, S. Moshal, Hon.  
 Vice-Presidents.

Council: Dr B. Moshal, President; Mr M. Stiller,  
 Vice-President; Messrs B.H. Bloom, W. Cranko,  
 M. Fielding, J. Goldman, J. Greene, M. Wolpert,  
 E.S. Henochsberg, Council Members.

Executive: Mr H. Lipinski, Chairman;

Mr L.S. Ditz, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J. Adley, C.R. Fridjhon, I.J. Greenberg, C.I. Israel, E. Jacobson, D.L. Robinson, S. Lazarus, S.D. Smolensky, M. Solomon, A. Stiller, Dr I. Goldberg, Mrs S. Moshal, Executive Members.

1938-1939

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Messrs F.C. Hollander, C. Lyons, H. Brown, S. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr M. Wolpert, President; Mr W. Cranko, Vice-President; Messrs B.H. Bloom, M. Fielding, J. Goldman, J. Greene, M. Jackson, E.S. Henochsberg, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.

Executive: Mr L.S. Ditz, Chairman; Mr I.J. Greenberg, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J. Adley, L. Fobb, H. Friedland, C.R. Fridjhon, A. Goldberg, H.R. Hart, A. Levine, H. Lipinski, T. Ronsheim, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, Dr I. Goldberg, Executive Members.

1939-1940

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Messrs F.C. Hollander, C. Lyons, H. Brown, S. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr W. Cranko, President; Mr B.H. Bloom, Vice-President; Messrs M. Fielding, M. Wolpert, J. Goldman, J. Greene, H. Blumenfeld, E.S. Henochsberg, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.

Executive: Mr L.S. Ditz, Chairman; Mr I.J. Greenberg, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J. Adley,

L. Fobb, H. Friedland, C.R. Fridjhon, H.A. Berman, L. Levey, H.R. Hart, A.E.P. Robinson, H. Lipinski, S.D. Smolensky, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, Executive Members.

1940-1941

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Messrs F.C. Hollander, C. Lyons, H. Brown, S. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr B.H. Bloom, President; Mr J. Goldman, Vice-President; Messrs H. Blumenfeld, W. Cranko, J. Greene, E.S. Henochsberg, H. Lipinski, M. Wolpert, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.

Executive: Mr I.J. Greenberg, Chairman; Mr C.R. Fridjhon, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J. Adley, L.S. Ditz, H.D. Freed, H. Friedland, R. Fenhalls, H.R. Hart, L. Levey, S.D. Smolensky, M. Solomon, A. Stiller, C. Sternberg, S.M. Tomkin, Executive Members.

1941-1942

Mr H. Hillman, Hon. President; Messrs F.C. Hollander, C. Levy, H. Brown, S. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr J. Goldman, President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Vice-President; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, H. Blumenfeld, W. Cranko, H. Lipinski, H.L. Magid, H. Moss-Morris, M. Wolpert, Council Members.

Executive: Mr I.J. Greenberg, Chairman; Mr C.R. Fridjhon, Vice-Chairman; Messrs M. Cohen,

H.D. Freed, D. Kentridge, L. Levey, A. Miller,  
S.M. Rubin, I.B. Shagam, I. Smith, M. Solomon,  
S.D. Smolensky, C. Sternberg, Executive  
Members.

1942-1943

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
Messrs C. Lyons, H. Brown, S. Moshal, Hon.  
Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr J. Goldman, President; Mr E.S.  
Henochsberg, Vice-President; Messrs N.E.  
Abrahams, H. Blumenfeld, W. Cranko, B. Lipinski,  
H.L. Magid, H. Moss-Morris, M. Wolpert, Council  
Members.

Executive: Mr C.R. Fridjhon, Chairman; Mr  
M. Solomon, Vice-Chairman; Messrs M. Cohen,  
J. Elias, H.D. Freed, I.J. Greenberg, B. Hyams,  
D. Kentridge, L. Levey, A. Miller, I. Smith,  
A. Stiller, S.D. Smolensky, M. Woolfson,  
Executive Members.

1943-1944

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
Messrs C. Lyons, S. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.  
Council: Mr H. Lipinski, President; Mr H.L.  
Magid, Vice-President; Messrs N.E. Abrahams,  
H. Blumenfeld, H. Brown, W. Cranko, J. Goldman,  
E.S. Henochsberg, M. Wolpert, Council Members.  
Executive: Mr M. Solomon, Chairman; Mr H.D.  
Freed, Vice-Chairman; Messrs M. Cohen, J. Elias,  
C.R. Fridjhon, I.J. Greenberg, B. Hyams, D.  
Kentridge, L. Levey, A. Miller, I. Smith,

A. Stiller, J. Sebba, M. Woolfson, Executive Members.

1944-1945

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Messrs C. Lyons, S. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents. Council: Mr H. Lipinski, President; Mr H. Blumenfeld, Vice-President; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, H. Brown, W. Cranko, J. Goldman, H.L. Magid, M. Wolpert, Council Members. Executive: Mr M. Solomon, Chairman; Mr H.D. Freed, Vice-Chairman; Messrs M. Cohen, J. Elias, A.M. Foreman, C.R. Fridjhon, I.J. Greenberg, B. Hyams, D. Kentridge, L. Levey, I. Smith, A. Stiller, J. Sebba, M. Woolfson, Executive Members.

1945-1946

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Messrs C. Lyons, S. Moshal, H. Brown, M. Wolpert, Hon. Vice-Presidents. Council: Mr H. Lipinski, President; Mr H. Blumenfeld, Vice-President; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, W. Cranko, L.S. Ditz, H.L. Magid, I. Smith, H. Zulman, Council Members. Executive: Mr L. Levey, Chairman; Mr A. Stiller, Vice-Chairman; Messrs D. Driman, H. Franks, H.D. Freed, H. Friedland, L. Gower, I.J. Greenberg, B. Hyams, D. Kentridge, J. Sebba, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, M. Woolfson, Executive Members.

1946-1947

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;



Messrs S. Moshal, H. Brown, H. Blumenfeld,  
M. Wolpert, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr E.S. Henochsberg, President;  
Mr I. Smith, Vice-President; Messrs N.E.  
Abrahams, L.S. Ditz, I.J. Greenberg, H.  
Lipinski, H.L. Magid, M. Solomon, H. Zulman,  
Council Members.

Executive: Mr L. Levey, Chairman; Mr A.  
Stiller, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J.A. Bierman,  
D. Driman, J. Elias, H.D. Freed, H. Friedland,  
L. Gower, S. Horwitz, B. Hyams, A. Miller,  
J. Sebba, C. Sternberg, M. Woolfson,  
Executive Members.

1947-1948

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
Messrs S. Moshal, H. Brown, M. Wolpert, Hon.  
Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr E.S. Henochsberg, President; Mr  
L.S. Ditz, Vice-President; Messrs N.E.  
Abrahams, H. Lipinski, H.L. Magid, M. Solomon,  
C. Sternberg, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.  
Executive: Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr H.D.  
Freed, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J.A. Bierman,  
D. Driman, H. Friedland, S. Horwitz, B. Hyams,  
A. Kaye, L. Levey, J. Levy, A. Miller, C.A.  
Rosenthal, J. Sebba, M. Woolfson, Executive  
Members.

1948-1949

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
Messrs S. Moshal, H. Brown, M. Wolpert,

E.S. Henochsberg, H. Lipinski, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr L.S. Ditz, President; Mr N.E. Abrahams, Vice-President; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, H.L. Magid, I. Smith, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members.

Executive: Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr H.D. Freed, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J.A. Bierman, D. Driman, S. Ernst, S. Horwitz, J. Levy, M.W. Maltz, A. Miller, C.A. Rosenthal, J. Sebba, S.D. Smolensky, A. Wartaki, M. Woolfson, Executive Members.

1949-1950

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Messrs S. Moshal, H. Brown, M. Wolpert, E.S. Henochsberg, H. Lipinski, Hon. Vice-Presidents. Council: Mr L.S. Ditz, President; Mr N.E. Abrahams, Vice-President; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, H.L. Magid, I. Smith, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, Dr B. Moshal, Council Members. Executive: Mr H.D. Freed, Chairman; Mr A. Miller, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J.A. Bierman, D. Driman, S. Ernst, H.L. Foreman, L. Levey, J. Levy, M. Maltz, C.A. Rosenthal, S.D. Smo, A. Stiller, M. Woolfson, A. Wartaki, Executive Members.

1950-1951

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Messrs S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, E.S. Henochsberg,

H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.  
 Council: Mr N.E. Abrahams, President; Mr  
 I.J. Greenberg, Vice-President; Messrs B.H.  
 Bloch, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, A. Goldberg,  
 L. Levey, H. Lipinski, M. Solomon, C.  
 Sternberg, M. Woolfson, Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr H.D. Freed, Chairman; Mr  
 A. Miller, Vice-Chairman; Messrs C.A.  
 Rosenthal, H. Levy, P. Abro, D. Driman,  
 H.L. Foreman, D. Hart, E. Levey, C.K. Norris,  
 S.D. Smo, A. Stiller, A. Wartski, Executive  
 Members.

1951-1952

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President.  
 Messrs S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, E.S. Henochsberg,  
 H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.  
 Council: Mr N.E. Abrahams, President; Mr  
 I.J. Greenberg, Vice-President; Messrs M.  
 Cohen, L.S. Ditz, A. Goldberg, H. Lipinski,  
 M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, M. Woolfson, P. Frame,  
 Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr A. Miller, Chairman; Mr S.  
 Ernst, Vice-Chairman; Messrs C.A. Rosenthal,  
 P. Abro, D. Driman, H.L. Foreman, E. Levey,  
 H. Levy, S.D. Smo, A. Stiller, H.D. Freed,  
 E. Aziz, L. Lewis, E. Jacobson, Executive  
 Members.

1952-1953

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
 Messrs S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, E.S. Henochsberg,

H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.  
 Council: Mr I.J. Greenberg, President; Mr  
 M. Solomon, Vice-President; Messrs N.E.  
 Abrahams, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, A. Goldberg,  
 L. Levey, H. Lipinski, C. Sternberg, M.  
 Woolfson, P. Frame, A. Stiller, Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr A. Miller, Chairman; Mr C.A.  
 Rosenthal, Vice-Chairman; Messrs S.L.  
 Abrahams, E. Levey, H.D. Freed, S. Bloch,  
 R.B. Bloom, J. Coll, H.L. Foreman, E. Jacobson,  
 W.H. Levitt, L. Lewis, H. Levy, D. Sklarchik,  
 S.D. Smo, Executive Members.

1953-1954

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
 Messrs S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, E.S. Henochsberg,  
 H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.  
 Council: Mr I.J. Greenberg, President; Mr  
 M. Solomon, Vice-President; Messrs N.E.  
 Abrahams, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, A. Goldberg,  
 L. Levey, C. Sternberg, M. Woolfson, P. Frame,  
 A. Stiller, Council Members.  
 Executive: Mr C.A. Rosenthal, Chairman; Mr  
 H.D. Freed, Vice-Chairman; Messrs S.L.  
 Abrahams, L. Lewis, A. Miller, S. Bloch, J.  
 Coll, H.L. Foreman, D. Gevisser, G. Hackner,  
 H. Horwitz, E. Jacobson, W.H. Levitt, H. Levy,  
 J. Lipworth, Executive Members.

1954-1955

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
 Messrs S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, E.S. Henochsberg,

H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.  
 Council: Mr M. Solomon, President; Mr C.  
 Sternberg, Vice-President; Messrs I.J.  
 Greenberg, N.E. Abrahams, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz,  
 A. Goldberg, L. Levey, M. Woolfson, P. Frame,  
 A. Stiller, Council Members.

Executive: Mr C.A. Rosenthal, Chairman; Mr  
 S.L. Abrahams, Vice-Chairman; Messrs S. Bloch,  
 L. Lewis, H. Levy, D. Gevisser, G. Hackner,  
 E. Jacobson, W.H. Levitt, H. Friedland,  
 P.A.M. Magid, J.I. Goldberg, H.D. Freed,  
 A. Miller, Executive Members.

1955-1956

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Hon. President;  
 The Hon. Mr Justice E.S. Henochsberg, Messrs  
 S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, H.L. Magid, Dr B.  
 Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr M. Solomon, President; Mr C.  
 Sternberg, Vice-President; Messrs M. Cohen,  
 L.S. Ditz, P. Frame, H.D. Freed, A. Goldberg,  
 I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, A. Miller, A.  
 Stiller, M. Woolfson, Council Members.

Executive: Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr  
 H. Levy, Vice-Chairman; Messrs R.B. Bloom,  
 J. Coll, H. Friedland, D. Gevisser, J.I.  
 Goldberg, G. Hackner, E. Jacobson, W.H. Levitt,  
 L. Lewis, P.A.M. Magid, N. Weinberg, M.L.  
 Woolfson, Executive Members.

1956-1957

The Hon. Mr Justice E.S. Henochsberg, Messrs

S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr C. Sternberg, President; Mr L.  
Levey, Vice-President; Messrs M. Cohen,  
L.S. Ditz, P. Frame, A. Goldberg, I.J. Greenberg,  
H.D. Freed, A. Miller, M. Solomon, A. Stiller,  
M. Woolfson, Council Members.

Executive: Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr  
L. Lewis, Vice-Chairman; Messrs E. Jacobson,  
J.I. Goldberg, R.B. Bloom, H. Friedland,  
D. Gevisser, J. Kramer, B. Lazarus, H. Levy,  
P.A.M. Magid, H. Polack, C.A. Rosenthal, D.M.  
Solomon, M.L. Woolfson, Executive Members.

1957-1958

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; The Hon. Mr  
Justice E.S. Henochsberg, Messrs M. Wolpert,  
H.L. Magid, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr C. Sternberg, President; Mr L.  
Levey, Vice-President; Messrs M. Cohen, L.S.  
Ditz, P. Frame, H.D. Freed, A. Goldberg, I.J.  
Greenberg, A. Miller, M. Solomon, A. Stiller,  
M. Woolfson, Council Members.

Executive: Mr H. Levy, Chairman; Mr L. Lewis,  
Vice-Chairman; Messrs S.L. Abrahams, E.  
Jacobson, J.I. Goldberg, R. Landecker, R.B.  
Bloom, J. Coll, H. Friedland, D. Gevisser,  
A.E. Jacobs, B. Lazarus, A.W. Levy, P.A.M. Magid,  
H. Polack, C.A. Rosenthal, B. Gevisser,  
Executive Members;

1958-1959

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; The Hon. Mr Justice E.S. Henochsberg, Messrs M. Wolpert, H.L. Magid, L.S. Ditz, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr L. Levey, President; Mr M. Cohen, Vice-President; Messrs P. Frame, H.D. Freed, A. Goldberg, I.J. Greenberg, A. Miller, C.A. Rosenthal, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, A. Stiller, M. Woolfson, Council Members.

Executive: Mr L. Lewis, Chairman; Mr E. Jacobson, Vice-Chairman; Messrs S.L. Abrahams, H. Levy, J.I. Goldberg, P.A.M. Magid, B. Gevisser, A.E. Jacobs, R. Landecker, J. Lazarow, B. Lazarus, A. Pletnick, H. Polack, H. Slot, S. Stiller, A. Zulman, Executive Members.

1959-1960

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; The Hon. Mr Justice E.S. Henochsberg, Messrs M. Wolpert, H.L. Magid, L.S. Ditz, Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Council: Mr L. Levey, President; Mr M. Cohen, Vice-President; Messrs S.L. Abrahams, P. Frame, H.D. Freed, A. Goldberg, I.J. Greenberg, A. Miller, C.A. Rosenthal, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, A. Stiller, M. Woolfson, Council Members.

Executive: Mr L. Lewis, Chairman; Mr E. Jacobson, Vice-Chairman; Messrs J.I. Goldberg, P.A.M. Magid, B. Gevisser, J. Kramer,

R. Landecker, J. Lazarow, N. Levy, J. Norris,  
A. Pletnick, H. Slot, S. Stiller, A. Zulman,  
Dr Sophie Beecham, Executive Members.

1960-1961

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President: The Hon. Mr  
Justice E.S. Henochsberg and Mr M. Wolpert,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Board of Past Presidents: The Hon. President,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents and Dr B. Moshal, Messrs  
L.S. Ditz, I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, H.L.  
Magid, M. Solomon, C. Sternberg.

Council: Mr M. Cohen, President: Mr M.  
Woolfson, Vice-President; Messrs S.L. Abrahams,  
P. Frane, H.D. Freed, A. Goldberg, I.J.  
Greenberg, H. Levy, A. Miller, C.A. Rosenthal,  
A. Stiller, Council Members.

Executive: Mr E. Jacobson, Chairman; Mr J.I.  
Goldberg, Vice-Chairman; Messrs L. Lewis,  
P.A.M. Magid, J. Lazarow, B. Beare, R.  
Berkowitz, B. Gevisser, R. Landecker, N. Levy,  
J. Norris, A. Pletnick, H. Slot, M. Sternberg,  
S. Stiller, Mesdames G. Awerbuch, S. Stiller,  
Executive Members.

1961-1962

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; The Hon. Mr  
Justice E.S. Henochsberg and Mr M. Wolpert,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents.

Board of Past Presidents: The Hon. President,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents and Messrs L.S. Ditz,  
I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, H.L. Magid,



M. Solomon, C. Sternberg, Dr B. Moshal.

Council: Mr M. Cohen, President; Mr M.

Woolfson, Vice-President; Messrs S.L.

Abrahams, P. Frame, H.D. Freed, A. Goldberg,

H. Levy, A. Miller, C.A. Rosenthal, A.

Stiller, Council Members.

Executive: Mr E. Jacobson, Chairman; Mr

J.I. Goldberg, Vice-Chairman; Messrs L.

Lewis, P.A.M. Magid, J. Lazarow, B. Beare,

R. Berkowitz, M. Berman, P. Ditz, B. Gevisser,

N. Levy, J.C. Norris, H. Slot, M. Sternberg,

S. Stiller, Mesdames G. Awerbuch, S. Stiller,

Executive Members.

## DURBAN UNITED TALMUD TORAH

- 1930-1931 Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; Messrs E.S. Henochsberg, M. Gevisser, L. Lipinski, C. Lachman, S.W. Brewer, Elected Members; Representatives of Communal Institutions; Rabbi E.M. Levy, the Rev. H. Rubin, Committee.
- 1931-1932 Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Mr H.L. Magid, Hon. Treasurer; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S.W. Brewer, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Gevisser, M. Beare, L. Lipinski, Elected Members; Representatives of Communal Institutions; Rabbi E.M. Levy, the Rev. H. Rubin, Committee;
- 1932-1933 Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Beare, A. Goldberg, O. Hackner, A. Lieberman, L. Lipinski, Elected Members; Representatives of Communal Institutions; Rabbi E.M. Levy, the Revs H. Rubin, N. Menachemson, Committee.
- 1933-1934 Mr C. Lyons, Chairman; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Freed, S. Goldberg, M. Stiller, A. Lieberman, L. Lipinski, Elected Members;

Representatives of Communal Institutions;  
 Rabbi E.M. Levy, the Revs H. Rubin, N.  
 Menachemson, Committee.

- 1934-1935 Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Dr N. Smith, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr S.L. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs M. Freed, S. Goldberg, J. Hern,  
 L. Lipinski, U. Stein, Elected Members;  
 Prof. P. Stein, Messrs Bloom, I. Lurie,  
 Co-opted; Representatives of Communal  
 Institutions; Rabbi E.M. Levy, the Revs.  
 H. Rubin, N. Menachemson, Committee.
- 1935-1936 Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Mr J. Hern, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr S.L. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs M. Freed, S. Goldberg, M. Stiller,  
 N. Hertz, L. Lipinski, Elected Members;  
 Messrs I. Lurie, B. Lurie, Dr A. Broomberg,  
 Co-opted; Representatives of Communal  
 Institutions; Rabbi E.M. Levy, the Revs  
 H. Rubin, N. Menachemson, Committee.
- 1936-1937 Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Mr J. Hern, Hon.  
 Treasurer; Mr S.L. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary;  
 Messrs M. Freed, M. Stiller, L. Lipinski,  
 N. Hertz, S. Hackner, B. Zolty, S. Goldberg,  
 Dr A. Broomberg, Prof. P. Stein, Elected  
 Members; Representatives of Communal  
 Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Revs  
 H. Rubin, N. Menachemson, Committee.
- 1937-1938 Dr N. Smith, Chairman.

- 1938-1939 Dr N. Smith, Chairman.
- 1939-1940 Dr N. Smith, Chairman; Mr W. Cranko, Hon. Treasurer; Mr I. Smith, Hon. Secretary.
- 1940-1941 Mr W. Cranko, Chairman; Mr W. Cranko, Hon. Treasurer; Mr P. Rubenstein, Hon. Secretary; Dr N. Smith, Messrs I. Jacobson, N. Hertz, S. Goldberg, E. Magid, Elected Members; Representatives of Communal Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Committee.
- 1941-1942 Mr W. Cranko, Chairman; Mr N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I. Goldberg, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S.W. Brewer, W. Smith, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs M. Freed, H. Zulman, N. Hertz, M. Ehrlich, S. Goldberg, I. Jacobson, Elected Members; Representatives of Communal Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Committee.
- 1942-1943 Mr W. Cranko, Chairman; Mr N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I. Goldberg, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S.W. Brewer, W. Smith, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs M. Freed, H. Zulman, N. Hertz, M. Ehrlich, S. Goldberg, I. Jacobson, Elected Members; Representatives of Communal Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Committee.
- 1943-1944 Mr W. Cranko, Chairman; Mr N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; (succeeded by Mr L. Tannenbaum) Miss I. Kaplan, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Freed, S. Goldberg, L. Tannenbaum, M. Ehrlich, E. Schragenheim, Mrs L. Jacobs, Elected Members;

- Messrs I. Jacobson, H. Hadany, N. Hertz,  
Co-opted; Representatives of Communal  
Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Committee.
- 1944-1945 Mr L. Tannenbaum, Chairman; Mr S. Goldberg,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mrs E.E. Mannheimer, Hon.  
Secretary; Messrs I. Helman, M. Eidelman,  
A. Baranov, Mesdames S.L. Jacobs, L. Davis,  
Elected Members; Representatives of Communal  
Institutions; Committee.
- 1945-1946 Mr L. Tannenbaum, Chairman; Mr S. Goldberg,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mrs E.E. Mannheimer, Hon.  
Secretary; Messrs B. Suttner, A. Baranov,  
F. Rogoff, S. Hackner, Dr J. Friedlander, Mrs  
L. Davis, Elected Members; Representatives of  
Communal Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman,  
the Rev. F. Metzger, Committee.
- 1946-1947 Mr M. Ehrlich, Chairman; Mr B. Lindsay, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mrs A. Savell, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs A. Baranov, F. Rogoff, L. Goldberg,  
S. Hackner, L. Tannenbaum, Dr J. Friedlander,  
Elected Members; Representatives of Communal  
Institutions; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Rev.  
F. Metzger, Mr S. Ernst, Committee.
- 1947-1948 Mr M. Ehrlich, Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon.  
Treasurer; Miss R. Kirson, Hon. Secretary;  
Messrs A. Baranov, H. Levy, L. Tannenbaum,  
A. Blumenfeld, S. Hackner, J. Blumenthal,  
Elected Members; Representatives of Communal

- Institutions; Committee; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Rev. F. Metzger, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.
- 1948-1949 Mr M. Ehrlich, Chairman; Mr H. Levy, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Miss R. Kirson, Hon. Secretary; Messrs E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, S. Hackner, Trustees; Messrs L. Tannenbaum, A. Blumenfeld, J. Blumenthal, A. Baranov, M.C. Freed, the Rev. F. Metzger, Mrs B. Moshal, Elected Members; Mr P. Deift, Co-opted; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.
- 1949-1950 Mr M. Ehrlich, Chairman; Mr H. Levy, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, S. Hackner, Trustees; Messrs P. Deift, L. Tannenbaum, S. Shapiro, J. Blumenthal, M.C. Freed, the Rev. F. Metzger, Mrs B. Moshal, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.
- 1950-1951 Mr M. Ehrlich, Chairman; Mr A. Stiller, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Lipinski, I. Geshen, Dr B. Moshal, Trustees; Messrs M.C. Freed, O. Ballin, C. Sternberg, L.D. Brewer, L. Tannenbaum, B. Geshen, Mrs I. Moshal, Elected Members; Organisation

Representatives; Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, the Rev. F. Metzger, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1951-1952

Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr L. Tannenbaum, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Lipinski, I. Geshen, Dr B. Moshal, Trustees; Messrs L. Abrahams, M.C. Freed, O. Ballin, B. Geshen, L.D. Brewer, H. Friedland, Mrs I. Moshal, Elected Members; Mr A. Levine, Co-opted; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, the Rev. F. Metzger, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1952-1953

Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr S.L. Abrahams, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Lipinski, I. Geshen, Dr B. Moshal, Trustees; Messrs L.D. Brewer, B. Geshen, A. Levine, A.W. Levy, Drs J. Addleson, S. Witten, Mrs B. Moshal, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1953-1954

Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr S.L. Abrahams, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Geshen, Drs B. Moshal, N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs B. Geshen, A. Levine, L.D. Brewer, A.W. Levy, Dr J. Addleson, Mesdames B. Friedland, B. Moshal, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives;

Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, Mr S. Ernst,  
ex-officio.

- 1954-1955 Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr S.L. Abrahams,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Mr I. Geshen,  
Drs B. Moshal, N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs  
H. Friedland, B. Geshen, A. Levine, I. Cohen,  
L.D. Brewer, Dr J. Addleson, Mrs I. Moshal,  
Elected Members; Organisation Representatives;  
Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, Mr S. Ernst,  
ex-officio.
- 1955-1956 Mr A. Stiller, Chairman; Mr S.L. Abrahams,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen,  
M. Cohen, Dr B. Moshal, Trustees; Messrs  
H. Friedland, A. Levine, S. Horwitz, B. Geshen,  
Dr J. Addleson, Mesdames B. Moshal, S. Abrahams,  
Elected Members; Organisation Representatives;  
Committee; Rabbi H. Swift, Mr S. Ernst,  
ex-officio.
- 1956-1957 Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr B. Geshen,  
Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen,  
A. Stiller, M. Cohen, Trustees; Messrs J.  
Horwitz, H. Jacobs, S. Kaye, L. Tannenbaum,  
A. Levine, Mesdames G. Goldblatt, B. Moshal,  
Elected Members; Organisation Representatives;  
Committee; Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Mr S. Ernst,



ex-officio.

1957-1958

Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr B. Geshen, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen, A. Stiller, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs L. Gower, M. Hackner, S. Horwitz, S. Kaye, A. Levine, V. Lipinski, P. Patz, Elected Members; Organisation Members, Committee; Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1958-1959

Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr B. Geshen, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen, A. Stiller, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs L. Gower, S.S. Fobb, S. Horwitz, S. Kaye, A. Levine, V. Lipinski, P. Patz, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1959-1960

Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr L. Gower, Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen, A. Stiller, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs B. Geshen, S. Klass, M. Hackner, A. Levine, S. Horwitz, V. Lipinski, S. Kaye, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1960-1961

Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr S. Kaye,

Vice-Chairman; Mr L. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs A. Stiller, I. Geshen, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs B. Geshen, L. Gower, S. Horwitz, M. Hackner, A. Levine, J. Marcus, Mrs B. Goldblatt, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

1961-1962

Mr S.L. Abrahams, Chairman; Mr S. Kaye, Vice-Chairman; Mr J. Gevisser, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Sacks, Hon. Secretary; Messrs I. Geshen, A. Stiller, Dr N. Smith, Trustees; Messrs B. Geshen, A. Levine, L. Gower, M. Hackner, S. Horwitz, L. Goldberg, Mrs G. Goldblatt, Elected Members; Organisation Representatives; Committee; Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, Mr S. Ernst, ex-officio.

## DURBAN JEWISH COMMUNAL COUNCIL (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ONLY)

- 1930-1932 Mr C.P. Robinson, President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, Vice-President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Secretary; Messrs L.M. Braham, S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, Executive Committee.
- 1932-1933 Mr C.P. Robinson, President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, Vice-President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs L.M. Braham, M. Freed, C. Lyons, B. Lurie, S. Moshal, M. Wolpert, Executive Committee.
- 1933-1934 Mr C.P. Robinson, Hon. President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, President; Mr S. Moshal, Vice-President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Bloom, B. Fisher, M. Freed, B. Lurie, C. Lyons, M. Wolpert, Executive Committee.
- 1933 Name of the Council changed to the Council of Natal Jewry (Executive only).
- 1934-1935 Mr C.P. Robinson, Hon. President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, President; Mr S. Moshal, Vice-President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs B. Lurie, S. Bloom, B. Fisher, M. Freed, C. Lyons,

M. Wolpert, Executive Committee.

1935-1936

Mr C.P. Robinson, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Vice-President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, President; Mr S. Moshal, Vice-President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs B. Fisher, S. Bloom, B. Lurie, M. Wolpert, M. Freed, F.M. Levy, M. Stiller, J. Greene, H. Brown, Dr N. Smith, Executive Committee.

1936-1937

Mr C.P. Robinson, Hon. President; Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. Vice-President; Mr H. Moss-Morris, President; Mr S. Moshal, Vice-President; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Brown, M. Freed, J. Greene, M. Wolpert, B. Lurie, F.M. Levy, B. Fisher, M. Stiller, S. Bloom, Drs B. Moshal, N. Smith, A. Broomberg, Executive Committee.

1937-1938

Messrs C.P. Robinson, F.C. Hollander, Hon. Presidents; Mr H. Moss-Morris, President; Messrs S. Moshal, M. Freed, Vice-Presidents; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Wolpert, M. Stiller, S. Bloom, B. Lurie, H. Brown, B. Fisher, I. Geshen, F.M. Levy, N. Hertz, J. Goldman, J. Greene, Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Drs A. Broomberg, B. Moshal, N. Smith,

## Executive Committee.

1938-1939

Messrs F.C. Hollander, H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Presidents; Messrs C.P. Robinson, P. Wartski, Hon. Life Members; Mr S. Moshal, President; Messrs M. Freed, J. Goldman, Vice-Presidents; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Bloom, H. Brown, N. Meyerowitz, M. Wolpert, A.J. Cohen, H.L. Magid, H. Lipinski, W. Cranko, B. Fisher, F.M. Levy, A. Kaplan, I. Geshen, N. Hertz, J. Greene, Drs A. Broomburg, B. Moshal, N. Smith, Executive Committee; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1939-1940

Messrs P.C. Hollander, H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr S. Moshal, President; Messrs M. Freed, J. Goldman, Vice-Presidents; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Bloom, N. Meyerowitz, M. Wolpert, I. Geshen, B. Fisher, H. Brown, L. Davis, L.S. Ditz, N.E. Abrahams, H.L. Magid, B.H. Bloom, A. Kaplan, N. Hertz, W. Cranko, Drs B. Moshal, A. Broomburg, Executive Committee; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Rev. N. Menachemson, Messrs A. Goldberg M.P., J. Rubin, ex-officio.

1940-1941

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, Hon. Presidents;

Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr M. Freed, President; Messrs J. Goldman, E.S. Henochsberg, Vice-presidents; Mr H. Brown, Hon. Treasurer; Mr R. Abrahams, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Bloom, N. Meyerowitz, M. Wolpert, I. Geshen, B. Fisher, L. Davis, L.S. Ditz, N.E. Abrahams, N. Hertz, H.L. Magid, B.H. Bloom, A. Kaplan, F.M. Levy, W. Cranko, Drs A. Broomberg, N. Smith, B. Moshal, Executive Committee; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, the Rev. N. Menachemson, Mr A. Goldberg, M.P. ex-officio.

1941-1942

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr E.S. Henochsberg, President; Messrs J. Goldman, I. Geshen, Vice-Presidents; Mr H. Moss-Morris, Hon. Treasurer; Dr A. Broomberg, Hon. Secretary; Messrs S. Bloom, N.E. Abrahams, H. Brown, W. Cranko, L. Davis, C.R. Fridjhon, P. Frame, I.J. Greenberg, N. Hertz, A. Kaplan, A. Levine, H.L. Magid, N. Meyerowitz, M. Wolpert, H. Zulman, Prof. P. Stein, Mesdames V. Robinson, P. Stein, Executive Committee; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Mr A. Goldberg, M.P. ex-officio.

1942-1943

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski,

Hon. Life Member; Mr I. Geshen, President;  
 Messrs H. Brown, W. Cranko, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Dr A. Broomberg,  
 Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Woolfson, J.  
 Nussbaum, N. Meyerowitz, B. Levy, N.E. Abrahams,  
 S. Bloom, H.L. Magid, H. Carter, P. Frame,  
 L. Davis, A. Levine, C.R. Fridjhon, I.J.  
 Greenberg, A. Kaplan, I. Gevisser, N. Hertz,  
 M. Wolpert, Councillor J. Goldman, Prof. P.  
 Stein, Executive Committee; Rabbi A.H.  
 Freedman, Mr A. Goldberg M.P. ex-officio.

1943-1944

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H.  
 Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S.  
 Henochsberg, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski,  
 Hon. Life Member; Mr I. Geshen, President;  
 Messrs H. Brown, W. Cranko, Vice-Presidents;  
 Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Dr A. Broomberg,  
 Hon. Secretary; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, M.  
 Wolpert, M. Woolfson, M. Cohen, M. Solomon,  
 L. Davis, P. Frame, J. Nussbaum, H.L. Magid,  
 E. Freed, I. Gevisser, B. Levy, A. Kaplan,  
 I.J. Greenberg, N. Hertz, Executive Committee;  
 Rabbi A.H. Freedman, Messrs A. Goldberg M.P.,  
 H. Carter, C. Sternberg, ex-officio.

1944-1945

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H.  
 Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S.  
 Henochsberg, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski,  
 Hon. Life Member; Mr I. Geshen, President;

Mr H.L. Magid, Vice-President; Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Suttner, Organising Secretary; Messrs M. Wolpert, H. Brown, C. Adley, C. Sternberg, A. Kaplan, A. Frankel, J. Goldberg, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, L. Davis, B. Barnett, I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, Dr A. Broomberg, Mesdames A.H. Freedman, H. Moss-Morris, I. Goldberg, Committee.

1945-1946

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr I. Geshen, President; Mr H.L. Magid, Vice-President; Mr H. Zulman, Hon. Treasurer; Mr B. Suttner, Organising Secretary; Messrs M. Wolpert, H. Brown, C. Adley, C. Sternberg, A. Kaplan, A. Frankel, J. Goldberg, M. Cohen, L.S. Ditz, L. Davis, B. Barnett, I.J. Greenberg, L. Levey, Dr A. Broomberg, Mesdames A.H. Freedman, H. Moss-Morris, I. Goldberg, Executive Committee; Messrs M. Freed, A. Kaplan, A. Miller, M. Ehrlich, N. Hertz, A. Goldberg M.P., Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1946-1947

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Presidents; Messrs I. Geshen, A. Goldberg M.P., Hon. Vice-Presidents;



Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr H.L. Magid, President; Prof. P. Stein, Mr R. Abrahams, Vice-Presidents; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Treasurer; Mr J.J. Friedman, Hon. Secretary; Messrs M. Wolpert, L.S. Ditz, C. Sternberg, H. Brown, L. Davis, C. Adley, H. Zulman, J. Goldberg, J. Gurwitz, B. Barnett, M. Ehrlich, L. Tannenbaum, A. Levine, J. Nussbaum, Mesdames M. Moshal, I. Goldberg, A. Broomberg, Executive Committee; Messrs L. Levey, F. Levy, S. Ernst, Mrs J. Kalf, co-opted; Messrs A. Miller, M. Freed, B. Geshen, N. Hertz, O. Ballin, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1947-1948

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, Hon. Presidents; Messrs I. Geshen, A. Goldberg M.P., Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr H.L. Magid, President; Prof. P. Stein, Mr R. Abrahams, Vice-Presidents; Dr N. Smith, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.W. Sulski, Organising Secretary; Messrs C. Adley, M. Ehrlich, A. Frankel, A. Baranov, J. Goldberg, B. Barnett, L. Davis, E. Jacobson, A. Miller, H. Zulman, A. Stiller, L. Tannenbaum, Drs I. Goldberg, B. Moshal, Mesdames A. Broomberg, I. Goldberg, M. Moshal, Executive Committee; Messrs O. Ballin,

S. Ernst, B. Bloom, A. Levine, C. Sternberg, J. Sussbaum, F.M. Levy, L. Levey, co-opted; Messrs J.J. Friedman, A. Kaplan, N. Hertz, L.S. Ditz, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Rabbi A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1948-1949

Senator the Hon. F.C. Hollander, Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, Hon. Presidents; Mr P. Wartski, Hon. Life Member; Mr H.L. Magid, President; Messrs R. Abrahams, A. Goldberg, Vice-Presidents; Mr B.H. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.W. Sulski, Organising Secretary; Messrs N.E. Abrahams, A. Levine, C. Adley, Drs I. Goldberg, B. Moshal, Mrs I. Goldberg, Elected Members; Messrs H. Zulman, M. Ehrlich, A. Stiller, J. Goldberg, E.S. Henochsberg, L. Davis, H. Levy, A. Baranov, M. Gild, S. Frame, E. Jacobson, H. Caminsky, M. Shatz, Mesdames J. Kalf, M. Moshal, S. Bilchik, Chairmen of Affiliated Bodies; Messrs J.J. Friedman, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, A. Kaplan, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Mr A. Levine, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr H. Zulman, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; ex-officio; Rabbi A.H. Freedman ex-officio and 6 co-opted members.

1949-1950

Messrs F.C. Hollander, H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal,

M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, Hon. Presidents; Mr H.L. Magid, President; Mr J.J. Friedman, Vice-President; Mr B.H. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.W. Sulski, Organising Secretary; Messrs C. Adley, O. Ballin, A. Levine, Mesdames I. Goldberg, M. Moshal, Elected Members; Messrs B. Barnett, L. Davis, H. Freed, M. Ehrlich, H. Caminsky, H. Cline, H. Hadany, J. Goldberg, E.S. Henochsberg, M. Shatz, H. Zulman, H. Levy, Mesdames J. Diamond, A. Fridjhon, F. Walt, Miss K. Beinart, Chairmen of Affiliated Bodies; Messrs J.J. Friedman, L.S. Ditz, A. Kaplan, N. Hertz, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Mr A. Levine, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest, ex-officio; and 6 co-opted members.

1950-1951

Messrs F.C. Hollander, H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, Hon. Presidents; Mr J.J. Friedman, President; Mr A. Levine, Dr B. Moshal, Vice-Presidents; Mr B.H. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.W. Sulski, Organising Secretary; Messrs C. Adley, P. Patz, J. Goldberg, C. Sternberg, I.J. Greenberg, Mesdames M. Moshal, I. Goldberg, M. Rothschild, Elected Members; Messrs H. Caminsky, B. Barnett, M. Shatz, H. Levy,

H. Cline, M. Ehrlich, L. Davis, H. Freed, M. Gild, E.S. Henochsberg, H. Hadany, H.G. Friede, Mesdames G. Benjamin, J. Diamond, C.R. Fridjhon, P. Walt, Miss K. Beinart, Chairmen of Affiliated Bodies; Messrs A. Levine, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, Subcommittee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Mr A. Levine, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr M. Woolfson, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); ex-officio; Rabbi H. Swift, ex-officio; and 10 co-opted members.

1951-1952

Messrs F.C. Hollander, H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, Hon. Presidents; Mr J.J. Friedman, President; Mr A. Levine, Dr B. Moshal, Vice-Presidents; Mr M. Woolfson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr S.W. Sulski, Organising Secretary; Messrs H. Zulman, C. Sternberg, R. Abrahams, C. Adley, M. Gild, J. Goldberg, I.J. Greenberg, Mesdames M. Rothschild, I. Goldberg, M. Moshal, Elected members; Messrs M. Shatz, A. Miller, B. Lazarus, A. Blumenfeld, H. Levy, G. Caminsky, H. Hadany, M. Gild, H. Cline, L. Davis, M. Ehrlich, L.S. Ditz, H.G. Friede, S. Goldberg, Mesdames A. Savell, C. Hart, H.G. Friede, H. Greenspan, L. Jacobs, Chairmen of Affiliated

Bodies; Messrs A. Levine, M. Freed, N. Hertz, A. Stiller, L.S. Ditz, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr B. Moshal, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr M. Woolfson, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch), ex-officio; Rabbi H. Swift, Rabbi M. Miller, the Revs B.C. Kur, H.J. Oleska, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members.

1952-1953

Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, Board of Past Presidents; Mr J.J. Friedman, President; Mr A. Levine, Dr B. Moshal, Vice-Presidents; Mr M. Woolfson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs H. Hadany, F.M. Lapin, C. Adley, B. Barnett, R. Abrahams, Mesdames R. Silbert, M. Rothschild, M. Moshal, I. Goldberg, C.R. Fridjhon, Elected Members; Messrs L. Goldberg, H. Cline, H.G. Friede, H. Levy, P. Patz, A. Stiller, L.S. Ditz, A. Miller, J. Rubin, A. Levy, A. Magid, S. Goldberg, G. Caminsky, M. Shatz, Mesdames C. Hart, L. Jacobs, A. Savell, H.G. Friede, B. Greenspan, G. Benjamin, N. Smith, Chairmen of Affiliated Bodies; Messrs A. Levine, M. Freed, N. Hertz, I.J. Greenberg, L.S. Ditz, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members;

Dr B. Moshal, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr M. Woolfson, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch), ex-officio; Rabbi H. Swift, Rabbi M. Miller, the Revs H.J. Oleska, B.C. Kur, ex-officio; and 10 co-opted members.

1953-1954

Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, Board of Past Presidents; Mr A. Levine, President; Dr B. Moshal, Vice-President; Mr M. Woolfson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs M. Cohen, C. Adley, R. Abrahams, I.L. Swift, H. Hadany, O. Ballin, Mesdames I. Shagam, M. Moshal, C.R. Fridjhon, E. Goldberg, Elected Members; Messrs L. Goldberg, H. Cline, H.G. Friede, I. Miller, P. Patz, A. Stiller, I. Geshen, C.A. Rosenthal, J. Rubin, J. Heilbron, S. Goldberg, E. Levy, M. Shatz, Mesdames E. Baynash, I. Kaplan, M. Rothschild, M. Gild, H. Greenspan, G. Benjamin, N. Smith, Chairmen of Affiliated Bodies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, H. Levy, N. Hertz, Subcommittee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr N. Smith, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Communal

Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch), ex-officio; Rabbi H. Swift, Rabbi M. Miller, the Rev. H.J. Oleska, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members.

1954-1955

Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Mr J.J. Friedman, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, Board of Past Presidents; Mr A. Levine, President; Dr B. Moshal, Mr L.S. Ditz, Vice-Presidents; Mr M. Woolfson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs R. Abrahams, C. Adley, O. Ballin, H. Hadany, M. Cohen, Dr I. Goldberg, Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, M. Moshal, I. Shagam, Elected Members; Messrs F.M. Lapin, B. Barnett, H.G. Friede, K. Nathan, P. Patz, A. Stiller, I. Geshen, C.A. Rosenthal, J. Rubin, A. Levy, C. Malatsky, G. Benjamin, M. Shatz, Mesdames E. Baynash, I. Kaplan, M. Rothschild, N. Smith, E. Celine, H. Greenspan, H. Benjamin, Chairmen of Affiliated Societies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, L.S. Ditz, M. Freed, N. Hertz, H. Levy, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr N. Smith Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman, United Communal Fund

1955-1956

(Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director of Jewish Education; ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi H. Swift, the Revs H.J. Oleska, J. Friedman, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members. Mr F.C. Hollander, Hon. President; Mr A. Levine, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs H. Moss-Morris, S. Moshal, M. Freed, E.S. Henochsberg, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, Board of Past Presidents; Dr B. Moshal, President; Mr L.S. Ditz, Dr N. Smith, Vice-Presidents; Mr M. Woolfson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs R. Abrahams, C. Adley, A. Miller, O. Ballin, B. Geshen, Mesdames A. Goldberg, M. Moshal, C.R. Fridjhon, M. Rothschild, I. Shagam, Elected Members; Messrs F.M. Lapin, B. Barnett, H.G. Friede, K. Nathan, H. Hadany, A. Stiller, M. Cohen, S.L. Abrahams, J. Rubin, M. Gild, C.H. Malatsky, G. Benjamin, S. Colley, Mesdames A. Beare, S. Bilchik, N. Smith, H.G. Friede, H. Greenspan, G. Benjamin, Chairmen of Affiliated Societies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, H. Levy, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr N. Smith, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman, Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr J. Greene, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director



of Jewish Education, ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, the Revs H.J. Oleska, J. Friedman, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members.

1956-1957

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; Mr A. Levine, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs M. Freed, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, Board of Past Presidents; Dr B. Moshal, President; Messrs L.S. Ditz, I.J. Greenberg, Vice-Presidents; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Treasurer; Messrs C. Adley, R. Abrahams, A. Miller, O. Ballin, B. Geshen, Mesdames A. Goldberg, M. Moshal, C.R. Fridjhon, M. Rothschild, I.B. Shagam, Elected Members; Messrs S. Kaye, I. Geshen, B. Lindsay, K. Nathan, H. Hadany, A. Stiller, M. Cohen, S.L. Abrahams, J. Rubin, N.S. Gilder, C.H. Malatsky, G. Benjamin, S. Colley, Mrs M. Sandler, S. Bilchik, E. Sacks, L. Zolty, N. Smith, Chairmen of Affiliated Societies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, H. Levy, N. Hertz, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Mr O. Ballin, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I.B. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr J. Greene, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director of Jewish Education, ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the Rev. H.J. Oleska, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members.

1957-1958

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs M. Freed, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, Board of Past Presidents; Mr L.S. Ditz, President; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, J. Goldberg, Vice-Presidents; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Treasurer; Messrs R. Abrahams, C. Adley, A. Miller, M. Cohen, B. Geshen, Mesdames A. Goldberg, S. Bilchik, I. Shagam, Elected Members; Messrs S. Kaye, I. Geshen, B. Lindsay, K. Nathan, M. Rothschild, S.L. Abrahams, A. Stiller, H. Levy, J. Rubin, N.S. Gilder, C.H. Malatsky, G. Benjamin, M. Shatz, Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, G. Abel, N. Smith, E. Sacks, P. Liefman, Chairman of Affiliated Societies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, Subcommittee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr N. Smith, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Shagam, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr B. Shotland, Chairman, United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director of Jewish Education, ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the Rev. H.J. Oleska, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members.

1958-1959

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; Dr B. Moshal, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs M. Freed, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, Board of Past Presidents; Mr L.S. Ditz,

President; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, J. Goldberg, Vice-Presidents; Mr J. Greene, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs C. Adley, M. Cohen, R. Abrahams, Mesdames A. Goldberg, I. Shagam, M. Rothschild, M. Moshal, L. Hirshovitz, Elected Members; Messrs I. Cohen, I. Geshen, B. Lindsay, K. Nathan, M. Rothschild, S.L. Abrahams, A. Stiller, L. Lewis, J. Rubin, N.S. Gilder, C.H. Malatsky, G. Benjamin, M. Shatz, Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, G. Abel, N. Smith, N.S. Gilder, P. Liefman, Chairmen of Affiliated Societies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, H. Levy, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr N. Smith, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Geshen, Chairman, Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr B. Shotland, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director of Jewish Education ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the Rev. H.J. Oleska, ex-officio and 10 co-opted members.

1959-1960

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; Mr L.S. Ditz, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs M. Freed, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, Dr B. Moshal, Board of Past Presidents; Mr I.J. Greenberg, President; Messrs J. Goldberg, A. Miller, Vice-Presidents; Mr J. Greene, Hon.

Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs R. Abrahams, A.H. Beecham, S.M. Berman, C. Adley, L. Alleson, M. Cohen, O. Ballin, Mesdames A. Goldberg, M. Moshal, M. Rothschild, I. Shagam, Elected Members; Messrs I. Cohen, I. Geshen, B. Lindsay, K. Nathan, M. Rothschild, S.L. Abrahams, L. Lewis, R.B. Isaacs, C.H. Malatsky, L. Hirshovitz, G. Benjamin, M. Shatz, Drs N. Smith, B. Bass, Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, L. Hirshovitz, N. Smith, W. Habermann, P. Liefman, Chairmen of Affiliated Societies; Messrs I.J. Greenberg, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, H. Levy, N. Hertz, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr I. Goldberg, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Geshen, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr H. Zulman, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director of Jewish Education, ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the Rev. H.J. Oleska, ex-officio; and 11 co-opted members.

1960-1961

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; Mr L.S. Ditz, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs M. Freed, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, Dr B. Moshal, Board of Past Presidents; Mr I.J. Greenberg, President; Messrs J. Goldberg, A. Miller, Vice-Presidents; Mr J. Greene,

Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs R. Abrahams, S.M. Berman, C. Adley, M. Cohen, L. Alleson, O. Ballin, L. Lewis, B. Beare, Mesdames A. Goldberg, M. Moshal, Elected Members; Messrs H. Masters, I. Geshen, B. Lindsay, K. Nathan, L. Shapiro, S.L. Abrahams, E. Jacobson, H.G. Friede, S. Goldberg, J. Woolfson, G. Benjamin, A. Baitz, Drs N. Smith, B. Bass, Mesdames J. Hellman, L. Hirshovitz, N. Smith, W. Habermann, P. Liefman, Chairman of Affiliated Societies; Messrs R.N. Leon, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, A. Levine, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr I. Goldberg, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr I. Geshen, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr H. Zulman, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director of Jewish Education ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the Revs J. Oleska, C.H. Davidowitz, ex-officio, and 11 co-opted members.

1961-1962

Mr S. Moshal, Hon. President; Mr I.J. Greenberg, Hon. Vice-President; Messrs M. Freed, I. Geshen, H.L. Magid, J.J. Friedman, A. Levine, Dr B. Moshal, Mr L.S. Ditz, Board of Past Presidents; Mr J. Goldberg, President; Messrs A. Miller, R.N. Leon, Vice-Presidents; Mr

J. Greene, Hon. Treasurer; Mr D. Spector, Organising Secretary; Messrs R. Abrahams, R. Isaacs, C. Adley, S.M. Berman, P. Querido, A.L. Schaffer, S.R. Taitz, L. Alleson, Mesdames M. Moshal, A. Goldberg, Elected Members; Messrs I. Cohen, I. Geshen, B. Lindsay, K. Nathan, L. Shapiro, S.L. Abrahams, E. Jacobson, H.G. Friede, S. Goldberg, J. Woolfson, G. Benjamin, L. Bacharach, Drs N. Smith, B. Bass, Mesdames J. Hellman, S. Bilchik, N. Smith, H. Ucko, G. Benjamin, I. Kirkel, Chairmen of Affiliated Societies; Messrs R.N. Leon, M. Freed, L.S. Ditz, N. Hertz, A. Levine, Sub-Committee Chairmen and ex-officio members; Dr I. Goldberg, Chairman Jewish Education Council; Mr H. Zulman, Chairman Durban Jewish Community Chest; Mr J. Greene, Chairman United Communal Fund (Natal Branch); Mr S. Ernst, Regional Director Jewish Education, ex-officio; Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Dr A.T. Shrock, the Revs H.J. Oleska, C.H. Davidowitz, ex-officio and 11 co-opted members.

## UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

- 1937-1938 Mrs M. Lewis, Chairman; Mrs V. Robinson, Vice-Chairman; Mrs N. Meyerowitz, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Goldberg, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames C.P. Robinson, S. Bloom, W. Cranko, B.H. Bloom, I. Goldberg, M. Zulman, A. Jacobson, E. Sacks, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.
- 1938-1939 Mrs M. Lewis, Chairman; Mesdames V. Robinson, A. Goldberg, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs B.H. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs L. Rubin, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames C.P. Robinson, I. Goldberg, I.V. Katz, E.S. Henochsberg, S.J. Kaplan, S. Bloom, L. Jacobs, I. Gevisser, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.
- 1939-1940 Mrs S.J. Kaplan, Chairman; Mesdames V. Robinson, M. Lewis, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs B.H. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs A. Goldberg, Hon. Secretary; Mrs I. Goldberg, Assistant Hon. Secretary; Mesdames E.S. Henochsberg, I.V. Katz, L. Rubin, S. Bloom, J. Nussbaum, J. Kalf, M. Woolfson, C.R. Fridjhon, S. Moshal, C.P. Robinson, Solomon, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.
- 1940-1941 Mrs V. Robinson, Chairman; Mesdames M. Lewis, A. Goldberg, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs B.H. Bloom, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I. Goldberg, Hon. Secretary;

Mesdames B.J. Abelson, E.S. Henochsberg,  
I.V. Katz, J. Kalf, S. Bloom, H. Lipinski,  
A. Miller, H. Moss-Morris, M. Woolfson,  
Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, P. Stein,  
ex-officio.

1941-1942

Mesdames F.H. Kisch, M. Lewis, Hon. Vice-  
Presidents; Mrs A. Goldberg, Chairman;  
Mrs V. Robinson, Vice-Chairman; Mrs J. Kalf,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I. Goldberg, Hon.  
Secretary; Mesdames P. Jacobson, I.V. Katz,  
C. Lurie, L. Frankel, H. Lipinski,  
H. Moss-Morris, A. Miller, M. Woolfson,  
Committee; Mesdames A.H. Freedman, N.  
Menachemson, ex-officio.

1942-1943

Mrs F.H. Kisch, Hon. President; Mrs M. Lewis,  
Hon. Vice-President; Mrs A. Goldberg,  
Chairman; Mesdames V. Robinson, I. Goldberg,  
Vice-Chairmen; Mrs J. Kalf, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs I. Goldberg, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames  
C. Adley, A. Frankel, S. Fine, J. Adley,  
A. Miller, B. Gitlin, P. Jacobson, C. Sternberg,  
M. Woolfson, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman,  
ex-officio.

1943-1944

Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Vice-President; Mrs  
I. Goldberg, Chairman; Mesdames A. Goldberg,  
J. Kalf, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs J. Kalf, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mrs E. Jacobson, Hon. Secretary;  
Mesdames J. Adley, A. Frankel, S. Moshal,



N. Fiddel, E. Davidson, I. Geshen, M. Lewis,  
A. Miller, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman,  
ex-officio.

1944-1945

Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Vice-President; Mrs  
I. Goldberg, Chairman; Mesdames A. Goldberg,  
J. Kalf, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs S. Moshal, Hon.  
Treasurer; Mrs E. Jacobson, Hon. Secretary;  
Mesdames J. Adley, A. Frankel, N. Fiddel,  
I. Geshen, M. Lewis, A. Miller, B. Hyams,  
F.M. Levy, B. Moshal, C. Fridjhon, M. Woolfson,  
C. Sternberg, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman,  
ex-officio.

1945-1946

Mesdames V. Robinson, M. Lewis, A. Goldberg,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs J. Kalf, Chairman;  
Mesdames I. Goldberg, E. Jacobson, Vice-  
Chairmen; Mrs S. Moshal, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mrs E. Jacobson, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames  
J. Adley, E. Driman, N. Fiddel, A. Frankel,  
C.R. Fridjhon, P. Goldberg, M. Hyams, T. Kaplan,  
A. Miller, S. Ritz, I. Moshal, E. Greenberg,  
S. Sternberg, M. Woolfson, M. Wolpert,  
Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1946-1947

Mesdames V. Robinson, M. Lewis, A. Goldberg,  
Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs J. Kalf, Chairman;  
Mrs E. Jacobson, I. Goldberg, Vice-Chairmen;  
Mrs S. Moshal, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Patz,  
Hon. Secretary; Mesdames M. Ehrlich, L.I. Cohen,  
D. Beare, V. Friede, C.R. Fridjhon, B. Friedland,

N. Fiddel, E. Greenberg, I. Geshen, P. Goldberg, T. Kaplan, B. Hyams, B. Moshal, I. Phillips, M. Wolpert, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1947-1948

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. President; Mesdames V. Robinson, A. Goldberg, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs J. Kalf, Chairman; Mrs B. Moshal, I. Goldberg, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Wolpert, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs J. Greenberg, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs P. Patz, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames D. Beare, S. Moshal, E. Davidson, R. Schaffer, N. Fiddel, N. Smith, H.G. Friede, S. Meyerson, T. Kaplan, K. Norris, R. Kaplan, I. Geshen, S. Kahn, J. Elias, M. Gild, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

1948-1949

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. President; Mesdames V. Robinson, A. Goldberg, I. Goldberg, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs J. Kalf, Acting Chairman (succeeded by Mrs F. Walt); Mrs I. Goldberg, Acting Vice-Chairman (succeeded by Mrs S. Kahn); Mrs K. Ezekowitz, Vice-Chairman; Mrs M. Wolpert, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I.J. Greenberg, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs L. Jackson, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames E. Baynash, D. Beare, C. Davidson, L.D. Brewer, J. Elias, L.S. Ditz, H. Friedland, N. Fiddel, J. Hellman, I. Geshen, T. Kaplan, S. Moshal, K. Norris, S. Meyerson, N. Smith, Committee; Mrs A.H. Freedman, ex-officio.

- 1949-1950 Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. President; Mesdames V. Robinson, A. Goldberg, I. Goldberg, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs F. Walt, Chairman; Mesdames J. Kalf, P. Patz, K. Ezekowitz, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Wolpert, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs I.J. Greenberg, Assistant Hon. Treasurer; Mrs L. Jackson, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames E. Baynash, S. Abelson, J. Elias, L.S. Ditz, D. Beare, C. Feinberg, H. Franks, N. Fiddel, I. Geshen, H. Friedland, J. Hellman, C. Hart, T. Kaplan, S. Tomkin, M. Sandler, Committee.
- 1950-1951 Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. President; Mesdames A. Goldberg, I. Goldberg, J. Kalf, Hon. Vice-Presidents; Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mrs J. Kalf, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs C. Hart, Chairman; Mesdames E. Baynash, F. Walt, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs J. Hellman, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Morris, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames L.S. Ditz, D. Beare, J. Elias, N. Fiddel, S. Ernst, H. Friedland, H. Franks, I.J. Greenberg, L. Jackson, B. Hyams, T. Kaplan, A. Levine, M. Wolpert, M. Moshal, A. Woolfson, Committee.
- 1951-1952 Mesdames A. Goldberg, I. Goldberg, J. Kalf, M. Lewis, V. Robinson, Advisory Board; Mrs J. Kalf, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs C. Hart, Chairman; Mesdames B. Baynash, F. Walt, J. Hellman, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs

J. Hellman, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B.J. Abelson, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames H. Slot, S. Abelson, R. Beck, R. Silbert, A. Levine, V. Driman, L.S. Ditz, T. Kaplan, H. Greenspan, N. Fiddel, L. Elias, E. Greenberg, G. Goldblatt, H. Franks, H. Galgut, Committee; Mesdames H. Friedland, M. Hyams, O. Schmahmann, A. Woolfson, Conveners.

1952-1951

Mrs J. Kalf, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs E. Baynash, Chairman; Mesdames C. Hart, J. Hellman, B.J. Abelson, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs M. Glanger, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Slot, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames R. Tomkin, J. Sachs, S. Abelson, G. Abel, L. Sandler, B. Rom, V. Driman, S. Abrahams, R. Fiddel, L. Galgut, M. Rom, B. Norris, A. Levine, H. Greenspan, B. Geffen, J. Klaff, T. Kaplan, M. Geshen, T. Hart, J. Kahn, Committee.

1953-1954

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mrs J. Kalf, Provincial Vice-President; Mesdames M. Lewis, I. Goldberg, A. Goldberg, Advisory Board; Mrs E. Baynash, Chairman; Mesdames C. Hart, B.J. Abelson, M. Sandler, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs C. Sternberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Slot, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames T. Adelson, A. Levine, J. Lindsay, R. Abrahams, D. Beare, B. Lawson-Whatley, P. Levitt, B. Daniels,

V. Driman, S. Lipinski, A. Sklarchik, R. Fiddel, L. Galgut, J. Schaffer, F. Witten, H. Greenspan, M. Klaff, T. Kaplan, Committee. Mesdames M. Nelson, B. Friedland, E. Ditz, H. Franks, M. Geshen, Conveners.

1954-1955

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames I. Goldberg, A. Goldberg, M. Lewis, Advisory Board; Mrs C. Hart, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs J. Kalf, Chairman; Mesdames E. Baynash, M. Sandler, M. Nelson, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs C. Sternberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs G. Bernstein, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames D. Hellman, T. Adelson, S. Disler, R. Fiddel, S. Goldberg, I.J. Greenberg, A. Levine, B. Lawson-Whatley, I. Kaplan, H. Slot, L. Jacobs, M. Rom, H. Levy, N. Essakow, J. Green, D. Cline, L. Lurie, M. Perling, S. Lurie, Committee; Mesdames V. Lipinski, M. Nelson, B. Friedland, H. Franks, C. Hart, Conveners.

1955-1956

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames A. Goldberg, J. Kalf, M. Lewis, Advisory Board; Mrs C. Hart, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs M. Sandler, Chairman; Mesdames N. Essakow, L. Lurie, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs C. Sternberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs R. Leon, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames H. Franks, R. Abrahams, B. Friedland,

M. Beare, B. Glanger, L.S. Ditz, S. Goldberg,  
 V. Driman, R. Fiddel, D. Hellman, L. Lapin,  
 L. Jacobs, V. Lipinski, H. Lurie, M. Michel,  
 M. Nelson, J. Polack, F. Schaffer, M. Rom,  
 A. Levine, Committee.

1956-1957

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs  
 V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames  
 E. Baynash, A. Goldberg, C. Hart, M. Lewis,  
 J. Kalf, Advisory Board; Mrs C.Hart, Provincial  
 Vice-President; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon, Chairman;  
 Mesdames M. Sandler, L. Lurie, Vice-Chairmen;  
 Mrs D. Jacobs, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Friedland,  
 Hon. Secretary; Mrs R. Leon, Public Relations  
 Officer; Mesdames F. Abrahams, S. Cohen,  
 H. Franks, H. Berkowitz, D. Beare, B. Fiddel,  
 J. Gitlin, S. Isaacs, M. Maller, L. Lapin,  
 J. Polack, T. Leon, M. Panovka, L. Lazarus,  
 C. Sternberg, A. Levine, B. Mendel, A. Solomon,  
 Committee; Mesdames A. Lewis, C. Hart,  
 L. Lurie, M. Nelson, M. Beare, Conveners.

1957-1958

Mr M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs  
 V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames A.  
 Goldberg, E. Baynash, C. Hart, M. Lewis,  
 J. Kalf, Advisory Board; Mrs C. Hart,  
 Provincial Vice-President; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon,  
 Chairman; Mesdames M. Sandler, L. Lurie,  
 Vice-Chairmen; Mrs B. Spilka, Hon. Treasurer;  
 Mrs B. Friedland, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames

D. Adley, N. Essakow, H. Franks, F. Abrahams,  
 S. Berelowitz, J. Fisher, B. Fiddel, C. Levine,  
 A. Goldberg, R. Lavender, S. Isaacs, F. Jacobson,  
 E. Marcus, J. Polack, T. Leon, H. Lurie,  
 A. Suskin, H. Segal, Committee; Mesdames  
 M. Beare, M. Nelson, L. Lazarus, B. Mendel,  
 Conveners; Mrs A.H. Shrock, ex-officio.

1958-1959

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs  
 V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames  
 E. Baynash, A. Goldberg, C. Hart, J. Kalf,  
 M. Lewis, Advisory Board; Mrs M. Moshal,  
 Vice-President on Headquarters; Mrs B. Baynash,  
 Provincial Vice-President; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon,  
 Chairman; Mrs C. Hart, Vice-Chairman; Mrs  
 D. Jacobs, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Friedland,  
 Hon. Secretary; Mesdames F. Beare, S.  
 Berelowitz, M. Buchholz, J. Fisher, D.  
 Berkowitz, V. Friede, G. Gantovnik, S. Isaacs,  
 F. Jacobson, S. Goldberg, B. Glanger, J.  
 Jacobson, S. Kaplan, B. Genn, S. Kalmek,  
 L. Lazarus, L. Lurie, P. Levy, B. Mendel,  
 H. Lurie, C. Levine, S. Kaplan, B. Linder,  
 B. Magid, E. Marcus, A. Suskin, L. Sandler,  
 H. May, M. Nelson, M. Manion, S. Perling,  
 Committee; Mrs A. Shrock, ex-officio.

1959-1960

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs  
 V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames  
 E. Baynash, C. Hart, J. Kalf, A. Goldberg,

M. Lewis, Advisory Board; Mrs M. Moshal, Vice-President on Headquarters; Mrs E. Baynash, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs J. Hellman, Chairman; Mesdames C.R. Fridjhon, J. Berkowitz, L. Lazarus, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs D. Jacobs, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs B. Friedland, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames H. Faiga, B. Genn, H. Berkowitz, M. Glanger, R. Beare, L. Gevisser, L. Ditz, S. Fine, H. Isaacs, B. Linder, K. Jacobson, W. Medwin, M. Kalmek, J. May, A. Levine, M. Perling, S. Prosser, H. Slot, D. Sklarchik, S. Tomkin, Committee; Mrs A. Shrock, ex-officio.

1960-1961

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames E. Baynash, A. Goldberg, J. Kalf, C. Hart, M. Lewis, Advisory Board; Mrs M. Moshal, Vice-President on Headquarters; Mrs E. Baynash, Provincial Vice-President; Mrs J. Hellman, Chairman; Mesdames J. Goldberg, L. Lazarus, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs C.R. Fridjhon, Immediate Past Chairman; Mrs D. Jacobs, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Friedland, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames D. Adley, S. Abrahams, E. Ditz, V. Gevisser, S. Isaacs, S. Kalmek, H. Lurie, C. Medwin, I. Mymin, R. Abrahams, M. Beare, J. Faiga, J. Hackner, M. Jacobs, S. Kaplan, B. Linder, H. May, B. Norris, S. Perling, F. Sklarchik, A. Suskin, R. Slot, A. Solomon, Committee;



Mrs A. Shrock, ex-officio.

1961-1962

Mrs M. Lewis, Hon. Life President; Mrs V. Robinson, Hon. Life Member; Mesdames C. Hart, E. Baynash, Trustees; Mesdames E. Baynash, A. Goldberg, C. Fridjhon, M. Lewis, J. Kalf, C. Hart, Advisory Board; Mrs Z. Moshal, Vice-President on Headquarters; Mrs E. Baynash, Regional Vice-President; Mrs S. Goldberg, Chairman; Mesdames L. Lazarus, H. Lurie, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs J. Hellman, Immediate Past Chairman; Mrs D. Cline, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs H. Slot, Hon. Secretary; Mesdames D. Adley, J. Polack, S. Perling, H. May, E. Ditz, P. Levy, R. Abrahams, A. Suskin, J. Faiga, R. Norris, J. Benn, J. Sieradzki, V. Gevisser, F. Schaffer, D. Jacobs, B. Sacks, M. Jacobs, J. Kaplan, S. Kaplan, L. Sandler, J. Schaffer, B. Linder, W. Medwin, A. Sack, W. Josephson, G. Smolensky, Committee.

## DURBAN JEWISH REFORM CONGREGATION

- 1947 Mr M. Gild, Chairman; Mr G. Jacob, Vice-Chairman; Mr A. Levy, Hon. Treasurer; Mr P. Abro, Hon. Secretary (Provisional Committee).
- 1948-1949 Mr M. Gild, President; Mr G. Jacob, Vice-President; Mr A. Levy, Hon. Treasurer; Mr C.A. Rosenthal, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Abro, T.J. Greenberg, E. Leonard, J. Levy, J. Lewison, A. Bierman, Major E. Isaacs, Mesdames C. Davidson, C. Pineberg, M. Gild, P. Abro, Committee.
- 1949-1950 Mr M. Gild, President; Mr A. Levy, Vice-President.
- 1950-1951 Mr M. Gild, President; Mr A. Levy, Vice-President; Mr A. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr E. Leonard, Hon. Secretary; Messrs P. Abro, H.G. Friede, J. Heilbron, C.A. Rosenthal, W. Blumenthal, T.J. Greenberg, E.B. Isaacs, J. Droyman, P. Harris, H. Kukle, Council; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.
- 1951-1952 Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Mr A. Levy, President; Mr J. Heilbron, Vice-President; Mr R. Goldberg, Hon. Treasurer; Mr C.A. Rosenthal, Hon. Secretary; Messrs J. Elias, E. Abrahamson, T.J. Greenberg, E. Leonard,

W. Blumenthal, H.G. Friede, J. Kramer,  
H. Masters, J. Droyman, N.S. Gilder, H. Kukle,  
Council; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1952-1953

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Mr  
J. Heilbron, President; Mr H.G. Friede, Vice-  
President; Mr C.E. Abrahamson, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr H. Masters, Hon. Secretary; Mr A. Levy,  
Immediate Past President; Messrs L. Meskin,  
R.B. Isaacs, M. Berelowitz, J. Kramer,  
W. Blumenthal, H. Kukle, B. Brazil, T.J.  
Greenberg, H. Cloenberg, N.S. Gilder, Council;  
Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1953-1954

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Mr J.  
Heilbron, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mr A.  
Levy, President; Mr M. Gild, Vice-President;  
Mr J. Kramer, Acting Vice-President; Mr W.  
Blumenthal, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H. Masters,  
Hon. Secretary; Messrs H.G. Friede, L.  
Alleson, R.B. Isaacs, M. Berelowitz, N.S.  
Gilder, H. Kukle, B. Brazil, T.J. Greenberg,  
L. Meskin, Council; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1954-1955

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Messrs J.  
Heilbron, A. Levy, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents;  
Mr M. Gild, President; Mr N.S. Gilder, Vice-  
President; Mr M. Berelowitz, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr R.B. Isaacs, Hon. Secretary; Messrs  
C.A. Rosenthal, L. Plen, B. Brazil, L. Alleson,  
H. Masters, H.G. Friede, H. Kukle, A. Lowenstein,

T.J. Greenberg, Council; Rabbi M. Miller,  
ex-officio.

1955-1956

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Messrs J.  
Heilbron, A. Levy, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents;  
Mr N.S. Gilder, President; Mr J. Kramer,  
Vice-President; Mr J. Adelson, Hon. Treasurer;  
Mr R.B. Isaacs, Hon. Secretary; Messrs  
L.V. da Costa, P. Querido, M. Berelowitz,  
H.G. Friede, L. Penn, H. Masters, T.J.  
Greenberg, D. Levy, H. Kukle, S.G. Isaacs,  
L. Alleson, J. Blumenfeld, Drs L. Blumgart,  
A. Solomon, Council; Rabbi M. Miller,  
ex-officio.

DURBAN PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION

1956-1957

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Messrs J.  
Heilbron, A. Levy, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents;  
Mr N.S. Gilder, President; Messrs J. Adelson,  
R.B. Isaacs, Vice-Presidents; Mr S.G. Isaacs,  
Hon. Treasurer; Mr L.V. da Costa, Hon.  
Secretary; Messrs P. Querido, R. Goldreich,  
J. Alleson, T.J. Greenberg, A.H. Beecham,  
J. Blumenfeld, H. Kukle, D. Sklar-chik, D.  
Levy, H.G. Friede, Drs A. Solomon, L. Blumgart,  
Council; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1957-1958

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Mr A. Levy,  
Hon. Life Vice-President; Mr N.S. Gilder,

President; Messrs J. Adelson, R.B. Isaacs, Vice-Presidents; Mr A.H. Beecham, Hon. Treasurer; Mr L.V. da Costa, Hon. Secretary; Messrs L. Alleson, H. Kukle, T.L. Freeman, P. Querido, H.G. Friede, C.A. Rosenthal, R. Goldreich, D. Sklar-chik, H. Goott, T.J. Greenberg, W. Habermann, Drs L. Blumgart, G.I. Phillips, Council; Mr H. Masters, School Representative; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1958-1959

Mr M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Messrs A. Levy, J. Heilbron, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mr R.B. Isaacs, President; Mr L. Alleson, Vice-President; Mr A.H. Beecham, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H. Masters, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Levin, H. Goott, J. Adelson, T.J. Greenberg, P. Querido, W. Habermann, L.V. da Costa, H.G. Friede, H. Kukle, C.A. Rosenthal, A. Levy, T. Freeman, Dr G.I. Phillips, Council; Dr B. Bass, School Representative; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1959-1960

Councillor M. Gild, Hon. Life President; Messrs A. Levy, J. Heilbron, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mr H.G. Friede, President; Mr R.B. Isaacs, Vice-President; Mr L. Alleson, Chairman; Mr H. Masters, Vice-Chairman; Mr H. Levin, Hon. Treasurer; Mr P. Querido, Hon. Secretary; Messrs H. Friedmann, T. Lorge,

H. Kukle, L.V. da Costa, H. Epstein, E. Ucko, T. Greenberg, W. Habermann, L. Summer, Mrs F. Masters, Council; Mesdames H. Ucko, M. Habermann, Sisterhood Representatives; Dr B. Bass, School Representative; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1960-1961

Messrs A. Levy, J. Heilbron, Hon. Life Vice-Presidents; Mr H.G. Friede, President; Mr R.B. Isaacs, Vice-President; Mr L. Alleson, Chairman; Mr H. Masters, Vice-Chairman; Mr H. Levin, Hon. Treasurer; Mr P. Querido, Hon. Secretary; Messrs R. Cohen, L.V. da Costa, M. Lipschitz, L. Summer, T. Lorge, H. Liepmann, H. Friedmann, D.L. Levy, H. Kukle, T. Greenberg, Council; Mesdames L. da Costa, H. Ucko, Sisterhood Representatives; Dr B. Bass, School Representative; Rabbi M. Miller, ex-officio.

1961-1962

Mr A. Levy, Hon. Life President; Mr J. Heilbron, Hon. Life Vice-President; Mr H.G. Friede, President; Mr R.B. Isaacs, Vice-President; Mr L. Alleson, Chairman; Mr P. Querido, Vice-Chairman; Mr H. Levin, Hon. Treasurer; Mr H. Liepmann, Hon. Secretary; Messrs D.L. Levy, L. Summer, R. Abel, T. Lorge, E. Carter, M. Lipshitz, L.V. da Costa, R. Cohen, M. Levin, J. Leites, T. Greenberg, M. Joffe, H. Kukle, Council; Mesdames E. Ucko,

V. Friede, Sisterhood Representatives; Dr  
B. Bass, School Representative; Rabbi Dr  
M. Miller, ex-officio.

## F.C. HOLLANDER LODGE NO XI OF THE HEBREW ORDER OF DAVID

January,  
1925 -  
June, 1925

Bro. Rev. E.M. Levy, President; Bro. J. Rothstein, Vice-President; Bro. A. Berman, Treasurer; Bro. A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Secretary; Bro. C.L. Greenberg, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. M. Ettman, Inner Guard; Bros M. Woolfson, P. Rothstein, Book Examiners; Bros Rev. H. Rubin, S. Sevel, M. Moss, Trustees; Bros Rev. N. Menachemson, Wineberg, Levine, Cohen, Marshals; Bro. A. Foote, Recorder; Bros B. Fisher, Woolf, W. Levy, J. Greene, L.M. Braham, S.B. Lazarus, N.B. Stern, J. Shapiro, Committee.

July, 1925  
- December,  
1925

Bro. W. Levy, President; Bro. L.M. Braham, Vice-President; Bro. A. Berman, Treasurer; Bro. A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Secretary.

January,  
1926 -  
June, 1926

Bro. L.M. Braham, President; Bro. M. Stone, Vice-President; Bro. M. Moss, Treasurer; Bro. A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Secretary; Bro. P. Eagle, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Bros M. Woolfson, A. Levy, Book Examiners; Bros Rev. H. Rubin, Rev. N. Menachemson, Rev. L. Shapiro, Trustees; Bros A. Berman, W. Levy, B. Levy, P. Weinberg, J. Shapiro, M.J. Stern, Dr Byala, Committee.



- July, 1926  
- December,  
1926
- Bro. L.M. Braham, President; Bro. Rev. N. Menachemson, Vice-President; Bro. M. Moss, Treasurer; Bro. A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Ware, Assistant Hon. Secretary.
- January,  
1927 -  
June, 1927
- Bro. H. Moss-Morris, President; Bro. M. Moss, Vice-President; Bro. I. Ware, Treasurer; Bro. A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Ware, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Bros B. Eagle, I. Geshen, Book Examiners; Bros J. Byala, S. Eagle, M. Stone, Trustees; Bros J. Byala, G. Band, N. Woolfson, M. Woolfson, Marshals; Bro. I. Cook, Recorder; Bros L.M. Braham, L.T. Obel, N. Hertz, M. Woolfson, Committees.
- July, 1927  
- December,  
1927
- Bro. M. Stone, President.
- January,  
1928 -  
June, 1928
- Bro. M. Stone, President; Bro. A.J. Lipinski, Hon. Secretary.
- July, 1928  
- January,  
1929
- Wor. Bro. A.J. Lipinski, President; Bro. L.T. Obel, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. M. Stone, Immediate Past President; Bro. J.A. Lewin, Treasurer; Bro. A. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. M. Korb, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Wor. Bro. M. Stone, Bro. M. Moss, Book Examiners; Wor. Bro. L.M. Braham, Bros B. Berman, M. Woolfson, Trustees; Bros I. Cooke, N. Fiddel, E. Levine, Marshals; Wor. Bro. Rabbi E.M. Levy,

Publicity Officer; Bros Rev. N. Menachemson,  
Rev. H. Rubin, B. Hoffenberg, S. Levitas,  
M. Magnus, S. Tomson, Committee.

February,  
1929 -  
June, 1929

Bro. L.M. Braham, President.

1929-1930

Bro. W. Levy, President; Bro. L.T. Obel,  
Vice-President; Bro. I. Ware, Treasurer;  
Bro. M. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. E. Jacobs,  
Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner  
Guard; Bros M. Moss, N. Hertz, Book  
Examiners; Wor. Bro. L.M. Braham, Wor. Bro.  
M. Stone, Bro. M. Woolfson, Trustees; Bros  
I. Fiddel, I. Levin, E. Levine, Marshals;  
Bro. I. Cook, Recorder; Bro. A. Magnus,  
Publicity Officer; Bros I. Cook, A. Foote,  
B. Hoffenberg, E. Levine, I. Levin, J.A.  
Lewin, Rev. N. Menachemson, Committee.

1930-1931

Bro. M. Moss, President; Bro. H. Jacobs,  
Vice-President; Bro. B. Levy, Treasurer;  
Bro. M. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Foote,  
Master of Ceremonies; Bro. S. Isaacs, Inner  
Guard; Bros N. Hertz, A. Cohen, Book Examiners;  
Bros M. Woolfson, W. Levy, Wor. Bro. L.M.  
Braham, Trustees; Bros W. Ware, D. Band,  
A. Tomson, E. Levine, Marshals; Bro. S. Sammel,  
Book Recorder; Wor. Bro. M. Stone, Publicity  
Officer; Wor. Bro. M. Stone, Bros I. Levin,  
I. Cook, J.A. Lewin, W. Manne, B. Hoffenberg,

E. Levine, Committee.

1931-1932

Bro. M. Moss, President; Bro. A. Ware, Vice-President; Bro. H. Jacobs, Treasurer; Bro. M. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. M. Korb, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Bros N. Hertz, A. Cohen, Book Examiners; Wor. Bro. M. Stone, Bros I. Ware, J.A. Lewin, Trustees; Bros E. Levine, I. Cook, L. Udem, W. Ware, Marshals; Bro. S. Sammel, Recorder; Bros Rev. H. Rubin, B. Levy, A. Lissack, I. Cook, M. Franklin, E. Levine, I. Levin, Committee.

1932-1933

Bro. H. Jacobs, President; Bro. B. Levy, Vice-President; Bro. M. Moss, Immediate Past President; Bro. I. Cook, Treasurer; Bro. W. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. E. Levine, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Bros M. Jackson, H. Silver, Book Examiners; Bros M. Moss, Rev. H. Rubin, I. Ware, Trustees; Bros D. Band, N. Fiddel, H. Zulman, A. Cohen, Marshals; Bro. A. Ware, Book Recorder; Bro. A. Ware, Publicity Officer; Wor. Bro. M. Stone, Bros N. Hertz, M. Franklin, A. Lissack, A. Cohen, D. Band, S. Friedmann, Committee.

1933-1934

Bro. S. Friedmann, President; Bro. E. Levene, Vice-President; Bro. H. Jacobs, Immediate Past President; Bro. W. Ware, Hon. Secretary.

- 1934-1935      Wor. Bro. B. Levy, President; Bro. E. Levene, Vice-President; Bro. S. Friedmann, Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Jacobs, Treasurer; Bro. W. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. B. Barnett, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Bros I. Levin, I. Rachelson, Book Examiners; Wor. Bros I. Ware, M. Moss, Bro. N. Hertz, Trustees; Bros L. Nevsky, G. Silberman, Marshals; Bro. S. Sammel, Recorder; Bro. K.M. Hairman, Publicity Officer; Bros L. Kaplan, I. Somen, S. Tomson, G. Silberman, J. Perling, H. Lewis, A. Baranov, Committee.
- 1935-1936      Bro. E. Levene, President; Bro. Rev. N. Menachemson, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. B. Levy, Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Jacobs, Treasurer; Bro. W. Ware, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Baranov, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Foote, Inner Guard; Bros A. Beare, G. Silberman, Book Examiners; Wor. Bro. I. Ware, Bros N. Hertz, J.A. Lewin, Trustees; Bros S. Carson, N. Fiddel, I. Rachelson, S. Garbus, Marshals; Bro. S. Sammel, Recorder; Bro. A. Baranov, Publicity Officer; Bros I. Somen, B. Barnett, S. Friedmann, S. Hackner, I. Rachelson, D. Goldstein, I. Cook, Committee.
- 1936-1937      Bro. Rev. N. Menachemson, President; Bro. B. Barnett, Vice-President; Bro. E. Levene,

Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Jacobs, Treasurer; Bro. M.M. Gold, Hon. Secretary; Wor. Bro. M. Moss, Master of Ceremonies.

1937-1938

Wor. Bro. Rev. N. Menachemson, President; Bro. H. Silver, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. E. Levene, Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Jacobs, Treasurer; Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary; Bro. G. Silberman, Master of Ceremonies.

1938-1939

Wor. Bro. E. Levene, President; Bro. D. Goldstein, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. Rev. N. Menachemson, Immediate Past President; Wor. Bro. L. Jacobs, Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary; Bro. M. Ehrlich, Master of Ceremonies.

1939-1940

Bro. D. Goldstein, President; Wor. Bro. L. Jacobs, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. E. Levene, Immediate Past President; Bro. H. Silver, Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary.

1940-1941

Wor. Bro. D. Goldstein, President; Bro. M. Abelansky, Vice-President and Chairman of the Management Committee; Wor. Bro. E. Levene, Immediate Past President; Bro. M. Ehrlich, Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary.

1941-  
February,  
1943

Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, President; Bro. M. Ehrlich, Vice-President and Chairman of the Management Committee; Wor. Bro. D. Goldstein,

- Immediate Past President; Wor. Bro. H. Silver,  
Treasurer; Bro. B. Davis, Hon. Secretary.
- February,  
1943 -  
July, 1943 Wor. Bro. D. Goldstein, President; Bro. M.  
Ehrlich, Vice-President and Chairman of the  
Management Committee; Wor. Bro. H. Silver,  
Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon.  
Secretary.
- 1943-1944 Wor. Bro. H. Silver, President; Bro. G.  
Silberman, Vice-President and Chairman of the  
Management Committee; Wor. Bro. D. Goldstein,  
Immediate Past President; Wor. Bro. M. Ehrlich,  
Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
Bro. B. Rosenberg, Master of Ceremonies.
- 1944-1945 Wor. Bro. H. Silver, President; Wor. Bro. M.  
Ehrlich, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. D. Goldstein,  
Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Goldberg,  
Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
Bro. B. Rosenberg, Master of Ceremonies.
- 1945-1946 Wor. Bro. M. Ehrlich, President; Wor. Bro.  
A. Baranov, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. H. Silver,  
Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Goldberg,  
Treasurer; Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, Hon. Secretary;  
Bro. B. Rosenberg, Master of Ceremonies.
- 1946-1947 Wor. Bro. A. Baranov, President; Bro. J.  
Sklarchik, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. M. Ehrlich,  
Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Goldberg,  
Treasurer; Bro. F.M. Lapin, Hon. Secretary;  
Bro. I. Glazer, Master of Ceremonies; Bro.

M. Luxembourg, Inner Guard.

1947-1948

Wor. Bro. A. Baranov, President; Bro. L. Goldberg, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. M. Ehrlich, Immediate Past President; Bro. L. Katzew, Treasurer; Bro. F.M. Lapin, Hon. Secretary; Wor. Bro. E. Levene, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Blumenfeld, Inner Guard; Bro. A. Shapiro, Lodge Steward; Wor. Bros B. Barnett, D. Goldstein, B. Levy, Trustees; Bros S. Deift, L. Strous, M. Perling, A.T. Meikle, Marshals; Bro. A. Savell, Book Recorder; Wor. Bros H. Silver, B. Rosenberg, Bros G. Silberman, V. Lipinski, J. Sklarchik, F. Rogoff, H. Saunders, Management Committee.

1948-1949

Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, President; Wor. Bro. L. Goldberg, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. A. Baranov, Immediate Past President; Bro. S. Kaye, Treasurer; Bro. F.M. Lapin, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Blumenfeld, Master of Ceremonies.

1949-1950

Wor. Bro. B. Barnett, President; Bro. A. Blumenfeld, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. A. Baranov, Immediate Past President; Bro. S. Kaye, Treasurer; Bro. F.M. Lapin, Hon. Secretary; Wor. Bro. M. Moss, Master of Ceremonies.

1950-1951

Wor. Bro. A. Blumenfeld, President; Wor. Bro. L. Goldberg, Vice-President; Wor. Bro.

B. Barnett, Immediate Past President; Bro. S. Kaye, Treasurer; Bro. F.M. Lapin, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Strasburg, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Shneider, Inner Guard; Wor. Bros D. Goldstein, H. Silver, Bro. F. Rogoff, Trustees; Bros M. Cramer, M. Luxembourg, L. Rosen, Marshals; Bro. J. Greenstein, Book Recorder; Wor. Bro. A. Baranov, Bros M. Sacks, E.B. Baynash, A. Woolfson, L. Segall, H. Orelowitz, J. Konigsfest, Management Committee.

1951-1952

Wor. Bro. L. Goldberg, President; Bro. F. Rogoff, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. A. Blumenfeld, Immediate Past President; Bro. S. Kaye, Treasurer; Bro. F.M. Lapin, Hon. Secretary; Bro. A. Strasburg, Master of Ceremonies; Bro. A. Shneider, Inner Guard; Bro. M. Shapiro, Lodge Steward, Wor. Bros H. Silver, D. Goldstein, B. Levy, Trustees; Bros N.S. Gilder, L. Rosen, M. Green, M. Cramer, Marshals; Bro. J. Greenstein, Book Recorder; Wor. Bro. A. Baranov, Bros A. Woolfson, B. Barnett, L. Segall, J. Konigsfest, I. Cohen, E.B. Baynash, Management Committee.

1952-1953

Wor. Bro. L. Goldberg, President; Wor. Bro. A. Blumenfeld, Immediate Past President.

1953-1954

Wor. Bro. F.M. Lapin, President; Wor. Bro. S. Kaye, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. L. Goldberg,



- Immediate Past President; Bro. I. Cohen,  
Treasurer; Bro. M.C. Goldstein, Hon. Secretary.
- 1954-1955 Wor. Bro. F.M. Lapin, President; Wor. Bro.  
L. Goldberg, Immediate Past President.
- 1955-1956 Wor. Bro. S. Kaye, President; Wor. Bro. I.  
Cohen, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. F.M. Lapin,  
Immediate Past President; Bro. H. Masters,  
Treasurer; Bros J. Greenstein, E.R.B. Wacks,  
Joint Hon. Secretaries; Wor. Bro. A. Shneider,  
Master of Ceremonies.
- 1956-1957 Wor. Bro. S. Kaye, President; Wor. Bro. I.  
Cohen, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. F.M. Lapin,  
Immediate Past President; Bro. H. Masters,  
Treasurer; Wor. Bro. J. Greenstein, Hon.  
Secretary.
- 1957-1958 Wor. Bro. I. Cohen, President; Wor. Bro. H.  
Masters, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. S. Kaye,  
Immediate Past President; Bro. A. Pletnick,  
Treasurer; Wor. Bro. J. Greenstein, Hon.  
Secretary; Bro. M. Rosen, Master of  
Ceremonies.
- 1958-1959 Wor. Bro. I. Cohen, President; Wor. Bro.  
H. Masters, Vice-President.
- 1959-1960 Wor. Bro. H. Masters, President; Bro. A.  
Pletnick, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. I. Cohen,  
Immediate Past President; Wor. Bro. M. Green,  
Treasurer; Bro. H. Perling, Hon. Secretary;  
Wor. Bro. A. Strassburg, Master of Ceremonies.

- 1960-1961      Wor. Bro. H. Masters, President; Bro. A. Pletnick, Vice-President; Wor. Bro. I. Cohen, Immediate Past President; Wor. Bro. M. Green, Treasurer; Bro. H. Perling, Hon. Secretary; Wor. Bro. A. Strassburg, Master of Ceremonies.
- 1961-1962      Bro. A. Pletnick, President; Wor. Bro. H. Masters, Immediate Past President.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Agadah .....	Non-legal part of the Talmud.
Aliyah .....	'Act of going up'; used to describe a Jews immigration to Israel.
Amidah .....	'Standing'; a series of benedictions recited while standing which constitute one of the main sections of the Jewish liturgy.
Ashkenazi [pl. Ashkenazim] ...	Related to the generally Yiddish speaking Jews of Central and Eastern Europe.
'Baal Tephilla .....	Reader, person who leads the prayers.
Barmitzvah .....	'Son of the Commandment'; the synagogue ceremony held when a boy reaches his thirteenth birthday and assumes religious responsibilities.
Batmitzvah .....	'Daughter of the Commandment'; the synagogue ceremony corresponding to a Barmitzvah that is held for a girl upon the assumption of her adult religious responsibilities.
Bayit .....	'House'; commonly used to describe a meeting place for youth activities.
Bimah .....	'High Place'; a raised platform from which much of the synagogue service is conducted.
Beth Din .....	'House of Judgement'; a judicial body having

	jurisdiction in matters of Jewish law.
Bracha (pl. Brachoth) .....	'Blessing'; used to describe the social gathering held in the precincts of the synagogue after morning services on Sabbaths and Festivals.
Chalutz (pl. Chalutzim) .....	'Pioneer'; an immigrant to Palestine (or Israel) who works specifically in the settlements seeking to develop the country.
Chanukah .....	'Dedication'; the eight day Festival of Lights, beginning on the 25th of Kislev. The festival commemorates the Maccabean victory over Antiochus of Syria and the rededication of the Temple where oil sufficient for only one day, in fact, miraculously lasted for eight days.
Chanukat Bayit .....	'Dedication of the House'; a ceremony of consecration of a house or any other building.
Chaver (E. Chavera, pl. Chaverim) .....	'Comrade'.
Chazan .....	The cantor in the synagogue.
Chevre Kadisha .....	'Holy Society'; Jewish Burial Society.
Dunam .....	A unit of land measure used in the State of Israel equal to 1000 square meters or about a quarter of an acre.
Eretz Israel .....	The Land of Israel.
Galuth .....	'Exile or captivity'; term used to describe the condition of Jewry since the dispersion in the wake of the destruction of the Second Temple.
Gedud .....	'Unit', generally used in a military context as well as by youth groups.

<i>Gemarah</i> ( <i>Gemarah</i> ) .....	Rabbinic commentary on the <i>Mishnah</i> .
<i>Hachnasath Kallah</i> .....	Dowering of a bride.
<i>Haftorah</i> .....	A Biblical selection especially from the Books of the Prophets, read in the synagogue immediately after the <i>Torah</i> portion on Sabbaths, Festivals and fast days
<i>Haggadah</i> (pl. <i>Haggadot</i> ) .....	'To tell'; a book used during the <i>Seder</i> service on Passover which tells of the exodus from Egypt.
<i>Haskarah</i> (pl. <i>Haskarot</i> ) .....	'Reminding'; prayer recited in memory of the departed.
<i>Ivrit B' Ivrit</i> .....	'Hebrew in Hebrew'; a direct method of teaching the Hebrew language.
<i>Kaddish</i> .....	'Holy'; an Aramaic prayer recited daily at public services during the first eleven months after the death of a parent or other close relative and on subsequent anniversaries of the death.
<i>Kashrut</i> .....	The state of being fit or proper according to Jewish dietary law.
<i>Kiddush</i> .....	'Sanctification'; a ceremony proclaiming the holiness of the Sabbath or of festivals that consists of a benediction over wine.
<i>Kol Nidrei</i> .....	'All vows'; an Aramaic prayer recited in the synagogue on the eve of <i>Yom Kippur</i> asking for annulment of vows to G-d and forgiveness of transgressions.
<i>Kosher</i> .....	'Fit or proper'; ritually fit, clean or prepared for use in accordance with Jewish religious law.
<i>Lag B'Omer</i> .....	'Thirty Third of the Omer'; a minor holiday between <i>Pesach</i> and <i>Shavuot</i> .

Madrish (f. <i>madrisha</i> , pl. <i>madrishim</i> ) .....	'Guide'; a leader in a youth movement.
Manhig .....	'Leader'; the head of a youth movement.
Mashkelah (pl. <i>mashtelot</i> ) ....	'Nursery for trees'; a term used in the <i>Habonim</i> Movement to describe the units into which junior members are categorised.
Matzah (pl. <i>matzot</i> ) .....	Unleaven bread eaten during the eight days of the Passover festival.
Menorah .....	'Candlestick'; a seven branched candelabrum the prototype of which stood in the Temple in Jerusalem.
Meshulloch (pl. <i>meshullochim</i> ) .....	'Embassy or messenger'; used more specifically to describe someone who is sent by a religious institution in Israel to solicit funds from Jews in the Diaspora.
Mezuzah (pl. <i>mezuzot</i> ) .....	'Doorpost'; an inscribed parchment placed in a small container that is affixed to the doorpost of Jewish homes in fulfillment of the Divine commandment recorded in Deuteronomy 6:9.
Mibvah .....	A ritual bath.
Minchah .....	'Gift, offering'; a daily afternoon religious service.
Minyan .....	'Number'; a quorum necessary for conducting public worship, consisting of not less than ten males above the age of thirteen years.
Mishnah .....	'Instruction'; (from the Hebrew word <i>shana</i> , to repeat or study), The Oral Law.
Mohel .....	A man who performs the rite of circumcision in accordance with Jewish Law.

- Neir Tamid* ..... 'Eternal Light'; a light that constantly burns near the Holy Ark in a synagogue.
- Oleh* [f. *olah* pl. *olim*] ..... From the Hebrew root 'to go up'; an immigrant to Israel.
- Oneg Shabbat* ..... 'Sabbath Delight'; an informal gathering on the Sabbath at which songs and speeches predominate.
- Parashah* ..... 'Section or division'; the weekly portion of the *Torah* that is read on the Sabbath in the synagogue.
- Parocheh* ..... 'Curtain'; the curtain that hangs in front of the Holy Ark in the synagogue.
- Pesach* ..... 'Passover'; a religious and spring agricultural festival which begins on the 14th of *Nissan* and lasts for eight days. The festival commemorates the deliverance of the Children of Israel from Egypt.
- Purim* ..... 'Lots'; a holiday celebrated on the 14th of *Adar* to commemorate the deliverance of the Jews from Haman who cast lots to decide on which day to destroy them.
- Rosh Hashanah* ..... 'Beginning of the year'; the Jewish New Year observed on the 1st and 2nd of *Tishri*.
- Schnoder* ..... From the Hebrew *Shenadar*, 'who has promised'; referring to the practice of those who upon receiving an honour in the synagogue promise to give a monetary donation to a Jewish institution or the synagogue itself.
- Seder* ..... 'Order'; home or community service and dinner held on the first and second evenings of the Passover festival at which the story of the exodus from Egypt is told.

<i>Sefer Torah</i> (pl. <i>Sifrei Torah</i> )	'Book of the Law'; a parchment scroll on which the Pentateuch is hand written.
<i>Sephardi</i> (pl. <i>Sephardim</i> )	Related to the Jews of Spanish and Portuguese origin.
<i>Skabbat</i>	Sabbath.
<i>Skabbat Shuvah</i>	'The Sabbath of Returning'; the name given to the Sabbath between <i>Rosh Hashanah</i> and <i>Yom Kippur</i> .
<i>Shaliach</i> (pl. <i>Shlichim</i> )	'Messenger, envoy'; generally a personality from Israel sent to a Diaspora community to perform a particular aspect of Zionist work in that community.
<i>Shavuot</i>	'Weeks'; a Jewish festival held on the 6th and 7th of Sivan, seven weeks after the second day of Passover, in commemoration of the Revelation at Sinai. It is also the Festival of the Wheat Harvest and the Festival of the First Fruit.
<i>Shechitah</i>	'Slaughter'; the slaughtering of animals for food in accordance with Jewish ritual law.
<i>Shechitah Board</i>	A committee which supervises all matters related to <i>shechitah</i> .
<i>Shekel</i>	An annual fee paid by Zionists into the general fund of the World Zionist Organisation which entitled the payer to vote for delegates to the Zionist Congress.
<i>Shema</i>	'Hear'; opening word of the prayer, Hear O Israel the Lord our G-d the Lord is One, which is recited twice daily by Jews.
<i>Shloshim</i>	'Thirty'; the period of thirty days of mourning following the death of a parent or other near relative.



Shochet .....	'Slaughterer'; a man approved by the rabbinic authorities to kill animals for food in accordance with Jewish law.
Shul .....	Yiddish for 'school'; a synagogue.
Siddur .....	From Hebrew <i>seder</i> , 'order'; prayer book used chiefly for daily services.
Simchat Torah .....	'Rejoicing of the Law'; a festival observed on the 23rd of Tishri, on which date the annual cycle of Pentateuchal readings is concluded and immediately recommenced.
Sukkah .....	'Booth'; a temporary shelter with a roof of branches and leaves for the Festival of Sukkot. The sukkah is commemorative of the temporary shelters of the Children of Israel during their wanderings through the desert.
Sukkot .....	'Festival of Booths'; also known as the Feast of the Tabernacles which begins on the 15th of Tishri.
Taharah House .....	'Purification House'; the mortuary house where the Chevra Kadisha carries out the final rites for the dead.
Taharat Hamishpachah .....	'Family Purity'; Jewish family law.
Talmud .....	The authoratative body of Jewish law incorporating the Mishnah and Gemara. One edition was completed in Palestine in the 4th century C.E. and the longer and more authoratative edition was completed in Babylon in the 5th century C.E.
Talmud Torah .....	'Study of Torah'; a communal religious school where children receive Hebrew and religious instruction.

- Tanach* ..... 'Abbreviation of *Torah*, *Neviim*, *Ketubim*' (Pentateuch, Prophets, Hagiographa); the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Tephillin* ..... From the Hebrew *tephilla*, 'to pray'; phylacteries worn by Jewish men during weekday morning services.
- Tisha B' Av* ..... 'Ninth of Av'; the anniversary of the destruction of the First and Second Temples.
- Torah* ..... See *Sepher Torah*.
- Tu B'Shvat* ..... 'Fifteenth of Shvat'; New Year of the Trees.
- Tzitzit* ..... the fringes worn by Jewish males on their prayer shawls.
- Yeshivah* (pl. *Yeshivot*) ..... From the Hebrew *yoshev* 'sit'; an academy for Talmudic study.
- Yishuv* ..... 'Settlement'; the Jewish community resident in Israel.
- Yohrtzeit* ..... From the Yiddish 'Time of Year'; the anniversary of a person's death.
- Yom Ha'atzmaut* ..... Israel's Independence Day.
- Yom Kippur* ..... 'Day of Atonement'; a twenty four hour fast held on the 10th of *Tishri*. The fast is the culmination of the days of penitence.

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