

An Impressive Chanukah Evening at the Hebrew Gymnazijum



The gymnazijum's blues orchestra in 1939.

*In the photo, among others, are the music teacher Rozenwajn;
the students: Daniel Dorfsman, Chaim Yitzchaki, Dalek Deres, Motek Rajzman, Heniek Richter,
Kamrat, Majtlis, Janek Wajskopf, The Szapira brothers, Landau,
[and] Izaak Szmulewicz (the others are unknown).*

Last Sunday, an impressive Chanukah evening was held at the Jewish gymnazijum's spacious hall, arranged by the Board of Directors.*

*The evening was opened by student Alek Orbach, who blessed [the] Chanukah candles. The choir, conducted by Professor Rozenwajn, sang a few Hebrew song - "Maoz Tzur**", "Mechorati", "Shemesh Avivi", "Ha'Yarden" [and] "Memoshavot Israel".*

All the songs were beautifully sung by the choir comprised of the school's 120 youngest students. We remarked that Mr Rozenwajn is surely a great expert if he succeeded in rehearsing with such a large choir and creating a glorious symphony.

For this, he was indeed given roaring applause.

The second part of the celebration was Jewish dances. The first dance was performed by the little [girl] Markowicz, dressed as a merchant of the Land of Israel selling Jewish oranges. The little one

* [Translator's note: Quote from newspaper article, see next page]

** [Translator's note: Maoz Tzur (O Mighty Stronghold of my Salvation) is a traditional Chanukah hymn. The others, "My Homeland", "Spring Sun", "The Jordan" and "From the Settlements of Israel", are old Zionist songs.]

danced and sang so beautifully, that the crowd simply did not let her leave the stage and she was forced to dance longer and repeat the dance.

Afterwards, a Yemenite dance with fine costumes was performed. Here, too, was evident the experienced stage-manager's hand of the gymnastics and rhythmic professor, Mrs Hinterowna, who rehearsed the last two dances and also accompanied them on the piano.

Of the participants, the schoolgirls Drutowna, Massowna and Rabinowiczowna especially distinguished themselves.

The gymnazijum's school orchestra, under the conductor Professor Rozenwajn, played the eastern march "Moledet" [Homeland], which was performed with all the nuances and was received by all the assembled with delight.

The gymnazijum's youngest students performed a very nice little portrayal of [the play] "Anachnu Bonim Bait" [Heb.; We Build a House], which shows how little fellows build a house in the Land of Israel. Additionally, a few dialogues were presented, which characterise the specific Land of Israel life and its new, free youth growing up there.

Another little scene showed the atmosphere in the current settlement in times of Arab terror. A group of workers discover that their friend was murdered by wild Arabian bands. At first, they become forlorn and try to abandon their work. But a group of children coming from the school suddenly appears [and], seeing what is happening, encourage the workers and urge them to resume the labour.

Next, a choral recitation was performed, with Mrs Prof Sak at the piano. As the last number, a scene from Ch.N. Bialik, "Lemitnadvim Ba'am" [To the Volunteers Among the Nation; a poem] was presented. Mostly older schoolgirls participated who, in the introduction sang "On the Rivers of Babylon" offstage, with Miss Lenczner at the piano.

The Hebrew productions were taught and rehearsed by Professor Uri Ton who, for such successful performances, was presented with flowers.

Ezriel Jakubowicz

(Quote from "Częstochower Zeitung" No.51, dated 23rd December 1938)



Purim performance at the Hebrew Gymnasium in 1931

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