

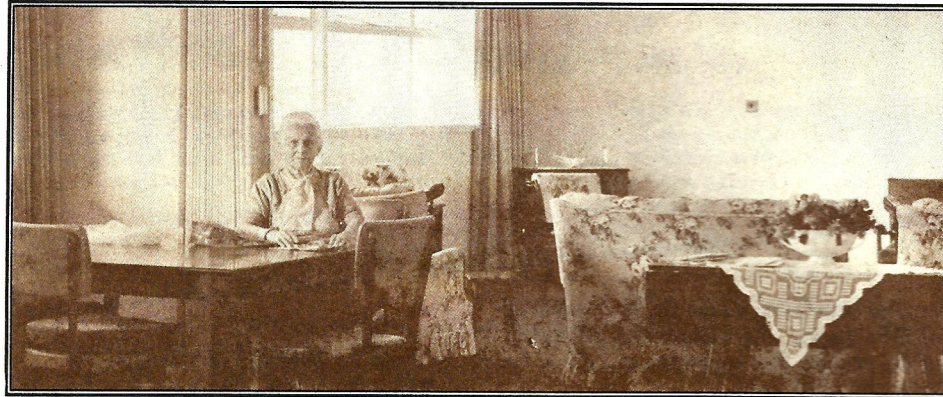


single and two double bedrooms, each with its own toilet and private balcony.

In the 1980s there was a drop off in residents reflecting the decline in the general community and a number of places were available as is the present situation.

Today, if it were not for the generous support by the community at large, the accommodation fees would not cover the running expenses of the home. Sufficient donations from various sources do help to keep Savyon in the black.

Be that as it may, the home has spacious public rooms such as the dining room, the lounges with satellite television, recreation rooms, quality furnishings and a total absence of an institutional atmosphere. It provides a form a living which is peaceful and secure. ☆



*(Left above): The main lounge at Savyon Lodge. (Left): The dining room where only kosher food is served, prepared in the kosher kitchen. These pictures were taken shortly after the home was opened. However, Savyon still has lovely furniture and has since been renovated.*

#### No flies on him

An advertisement in a Bulawayo cafe, 1903: "Cool rooms, Quick attendance. No flies."

#### Fairer Sex

A view of conditions in 1903: "There is now no fear of dullness for the ladies in any town in Matabeleland, and the absence of conventionalism renders the life most pleasant and it is much appreciated by the fair sex."

#### Shmuel (Samuel) Gotz

Hon life pres of Cazo. His Zionistic life began at age of 16 in Russia in 1917. It was Gotz who, as chairman of the first *Hachsharah Kvutzah*, handed over his chair to Joseph Trumpeldor and became general secretary. After Trumpeldor left for Palestine Gotz succeeded him as movement leader. Later he lived in Lithuania where he joined the Zionist Socialist Party and was its representative on the Supreme Council of Lithuanian Jewry. He was with the Lithuanian Government's Department of Jewish Affairs. He became head of the JNF in Lithuania and Latvia, represented the Zionist Socialist Party at several World Zionist Congresses. Later he helped found *Keren Hayesod* and Maccabi movement. Up to 1935 when he left Europe, he was said to have been active in almost every Zionist movement. During the most turbulent time of European Zionism, when most activities were carried out secretly, Gotz lived dangerously, especially when *Hechalutz* was banned and workers subjected to the constant threat of arrest. He needed false papers to travel. He was a noted Yiddish journalist, travelled widely and had an unrivalled knowledge of Jewish life in Europe before World War Two.

#### First Class First Aid



Over the years many Jews in Bulawayo have contributed not only to their own congregation but to the community at large. A number of them went on to get local, national and international recognition. One of the earliest in Red Cross work was Bulawayo's second Jewish Mayoress, Bertha Basch, who received an MBE for her efforts. Another heroine in this field was Lucia Lowenstein (at left in the picture) who devoted many years to the Red Cross. She was so impressed with the work done by the organisation during the war that she felt the movement was her life. She spent time learning all there was to know about First Aid and then went on to teach young women on the subject. She would also find the time to organise Red Cross training sessions when the need arose and she conducted health lessons for the less fortunate. In the 1950s she was presented with an award by the International Red Cross in Geneva for her instructions to young black girls, many of whom went on to become fully qualified nurses and SRNs. She was also an Hon life member of the University Women's Association of Bulawayo and a representative of the National Council of Women and St Clare's Home. She was a vice chairman of the UJW and cultural convener of Wizo.



# League gives with grace and humility

**T**HE Jewish Women's Communal League is perhaps one of the Bulawayo's oldest Jewish societies. Formed in 1897 under the leadership of Mrs H R Rubenstein, a group of women formed a Jewish Ladies' Benevolent society, working tirelessly, not only for the Jewish community, but for many local welfare organisations. Its main aims were to assist the Jewish poor, mainly women and children, in Bulawayo and the environs.

During the Great War, from 1914 to 1918, under the chair of Mrs Basch, the women assisted in the Colony's War Effort and later in the building of the Memorial Hospital. As the band of workers grew, they formed themselves into the Jewish Women's Benevolent Aid Society, their charitable work being immediately recognised and respected. The society helped raise funds for the Russo-Jewish Fund, the Palestine League and the Relief of Central Europe, while continuing to do their duty for the needy at home.

Later, in 1919, at the suggestion of Rev M I Cohen, the society changed its name to the Jewish Women's Communal League as this more appropriately described the nature of its activities. Many Jewish and non-Jewish groups in England, central Europe and Palestine benefited from the League's efforts.

The Jewish Memorial Hall was built on funds raised by the League in 1921 and the women played a vital part in the establishment of the Louis Landau Hebrew School. Ten years later they were still at it,

this time donating a bed to the Lady Rodwell Maternity Home.

When Dr Vera Weizmann visited Bulawayo in 1932, Mrs B L King called a special meeting. This was the start of the first Wizo in Rhodesia, and the UJW was formed at a meeting later convened by the League.

Jewish children benefited in 1934 when

women presented an ambulance to Bulawayo and they helped with canteen services and transport. Over the years, Cape Town and Johannesburg orphanages, homes for the aged, the Hebrew University, the Jewish Institute for the Blind in Jerusalem, Food for Britain Fund, St Gabriel's Home and many others received help from the League.

Our women were honoured in 1947 when they were asked to send a representative to meet the (now) Queen Mother. The Jewish Women's Communal League helped with street collections but stopped this in the 1980s as most collections were held on Saturday mornings. More assistance was called for in 1952 when the League helped needy women and children of the community during the Depression, but subscriptions were "raised" to 12s 6d per annum for "the greater good". Other societies lent a hand and today the League gets an annual grant from the Chevra Kadisha and from the Congregation. Further income is provided from donations at High Holidays.

## Sadie Kaplan MBE

She came to Bulawayo, 1916, married Arcadie Kaplan. Known as "Kappie", she was an outstanding figure in Rhodesian Jewish life, a tireless worker for countless social welfare societies, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The list reads like a directory of communal institutions. She was Hon life president for 35 years' work to St Dunstons. She reaped many honours for her selfless service, including the Rosicrucian Order (1960) giving her the title of "Humanist". She helped start Bulawayo Women's Zionist Society, formed Young Wizo, Hon vice chairman Rhodesian Wizo, founded Habonim. She was elected to Bulawayo City Council, active with Girl Guides for 25 years, served on National Council of Women and Red Cross. Others: Loyal Women's Guild, the Child Welfare Society, Queen Mary House, Eveline Girls School Council, Magen David Adom which she helped found. In 1961 she was awarded the MBE for her long service in social welfare and for work with the young and physically handicapped.

they were sent to the seaside with the Child Welfare Society assisted by the League. They also helped German Jewry and raised money for Polish relief. Still behind needy causes, the League in 1939 to 1945, under Edith Blumberg, who was chairman for 16 years, offered the Mayor of Bulawayo assistance with the World War Two effort. Thousands of garments were knitted and parcels sent to Jewish troops. Jewish

Still today, the League has endeavoured to serve the community in many ways including visiting hospitals on a regular, voluntary basis. It sends out Yom Tov parcels, visits Savyon Lodge and serves teas. Much of its work is on a personal, one-to-one basis helping those in need and giving charity — charity of thought, mind and outlook, the "giving with grace and humility to those in need". ☆

## UJW's heart of gold

**A** small group of enthusiastic women in Salisbury created the Union of Jewish Women, our major charitable organisation, in 1948. Their main aim was to assist the community at large. A few weeks later Bulawayo began its own branch and the two have been doing sterling work ever since.

Our organisation was then part of the UJW of South Africa which in turn was affiliated to the International Council of Jewish Women. From the outset, the women did good works and held cultural meetings. Bulawayo's first AGM was in 1949 and the women started with minor fund raising events. By 1950 the scope had widened to include helping local charities, street collections and hospital visits.

In 1952 the UJW's representation on the Jewish Board of Deputies was begun. Its activities grew to include weekly visits to the Rhodesian Children's Home and

mending clothes. The first real social welfare project, the Native Hospital Library, was launched, and polio victims were transported to and from the newly built clinic.

Three years later the women were honoured by the first visit of a National UJW President of southern Africa. Later women from around the country met in Salisbury to discuss cerebral palsy, which gave impetus to establish a pilot scheme in 1956 at the Red Cross Clinic. The clinic later grew into the Cerebral Palsy Association and in 1964 it joined the Polio Organisation to form St Giles Rehabilitation Centre.

The first Friendship Club was formed in 1957 to cater for elderly Jews, who were taken on outings. During this time membership grew and declined with the comings and goings of Bulawayo's population. Nevertheless the UJW continued to support black pupils and in

1960 a scholarship for a black student was initiated. African orphans were also tended to and black adult education got off the ground. Sonia Krengle was president during this period in 1958 and is today an Hon Life member as are Sonia Jacobs and Ann Moss. A minor hiccup hit the







*UJW members at the 20th CA Zionist Conference in Bulawayo, 1984. (From left): Marie Gonsenhauser (Bulawayo), Yolanda Horovitz (chair Harare branch), Sheila Broomberg (national chair and co-chair Bulawayo), Rifca Baron (co-chair Bulawayo) and Baileh Bloch (Hon sec Bulawayo).*

on to the map of Bulawayo and Zimbabwean history, but its name rang around the world.

While this was its major task, UJW did not neglect the smaller jobs, such as making weekly hospital visits to Jewish patients; holding monthly Bingo sessions at Savyon Lodge; providing teas and special dishes at Jewish festivals — cheese blintzes bar none; attending the annual general meetings of all Jewish organisations in the region; providing book prizes for Carmel School and donating cash to the Hebrew English Nursery School.

The handful organised the selling of *matzah* for various *Pesachs*; each year a tea and quiz afternoon is held for residents of Barbara Burrell Home for the Blind; Communion Cottage elderly residents and the orphans at the John Small Home get treated to a party or an outing annually; Abilities, a sheltered workshop, receives cash donations, as does the Bulawayo Shelter, a home for the destitute.

Ingutsheni gets its joy from birthday parties arranged for Jewish inmates. On the donations side, the UJW collects second-hand clothing for the less fortunate, and the Combined Charities gets a boost of UJW new clothing, and Friends of the Shul usually get money.

Mimes come from film premieres, such as 1993's "Matter of Choice" produced by Pat Schulman, whereby nearly \$3,700 was raised. The women's hard efforts were further rewarded when nearly \$74,000 was raised at a fashion-auction-song show later in the year. In total, the UJW raised an astounding \$33,000 for its general account, NOT including Makhaza project which saw a further \$150,000 fill its charitable coffers.

Today the UJW has an on-going programme to help the starving. The continuation of this programme is its primary objective, but their normal regular charities still receive their usual support. ✨

organisation in 1967 when the younger women broke away to form the Tony Saphra Group. It consisted of 15 women led by Paulette Hodes, Sheila Broomberg and Nadia Paul. They organised cooking classes, art exhibitions and adult education, to mention a few events. But by 1973, as the community declined, so the two groups re-joined and the Saphra monies, totalling \$630, were transferred to the UJW.

The national body, then known as the Union of Jewish Women of Rhodesia, was formally constituted in 1977. After careful consideration, the women decided that the UJW branches in Rhodesia would disaffiliate from South Africa and form an independent national body directly affiliated to the International Council of Jewish Women.

The new national body had three branches; their aims were education, goodwill and service to the community, both Jews and non-Jews. The UJW national executive then had Dorene Zilberg as president, while in Bulawayo Nadia Paul was the first chairman under the "new" organisation.

Over the years, not only have the women raised money for charity but they have held symposiums and lectures for the public. Adult education and "good will" meetings were, and still are, held on a regular basis. For example in 1969 they hosted a symposium on "The Pill" in conjunction with the Family Planning Association, at which 150 people turned out.

In the 1970s the Bulawayo branch was active in visiting various hospitals including Mpilo where the women distributed fruit and sweets and they supported a Black creche with food and equipment. Committee members ran a soup kitchen in Makokoba and Luveve townships and helped at the King George VI Rehabilitation Centre.

There was an active Friendship Club which catered for Jewish senior citizens. Of particular nostalgia was their campaign to

"Brighten Christmas for the Troops," during the Rhodesian hostilities.

Later in 1978, the UJW created a \$500 yearly donation to the paediatric department at the Medical School, University of Rhodesia. This money went towards the building of an audio-tape library of recorded talks on the prevention and treatment of children's diseases. Fun evenings, such as the "Pots, Pans and Proteins" programme in 1978 where various foods of different nationalities, were often held. In 1979 the UJW went nationwide with a mammoth project to raise \$500,000, again for the Paediatrics Department, to further the tape library.

In 1993 membership stood at a mere 18 — but this handful sure could "pack a punch". Among the tasks it set itself was the mass feeding of some 3,800 malnourished children in the devastated drought-stricken area of Matabeleland North. Through this project, the UJW put itself firmly not only



*Wendi Lepar (left) and Sheila Broomberg of Bulawayo's UJW with the pile of goods and clothing donated for the Makhaza project.*



# Makhaza project beats them all

THE highlight of the UJW's fund raising tasks, to beat every project they have undertaken since its inception, must be Operation Makhaza.

During the devastating drought of 1991-93, the women originally undertook to feed a group of 800 malnourished children under the age of five in Matabeleland North. But later investigations showed that there were more than 3,800 sickly youngsters. They ended up feeding almost 3,000 children daily, including lactating mothers and pregnant women.

The drought was so severe that 95 percent of the crop failed. Subsistence no longer existed. Men sought work elsewhere and they left their wives and children to fend for themselves. The Makhaza ward — some 197 kms west of Bulawayo — was earmarked as a disaster zone. Gravel roads there were passable, but barely so. With the encroaching Kalahari Desert and the unpredictable rains of those past three years, the agricultural sector was destroyed. The population of Makhaza was then nearly 17,000, 18 percent of which were toddlers. Of this group, 38 percent were already malnourished by the time the UJW stepped in, and the numbers were growing daily.

Some infants had already died and more were at death's door. The UJW saw a real need to assist and approached the Ministry of Health. They were given the area of Makhaza.

To undertake this enormous task, the UJW approached well-known television presenter, Noreen Welsh, who gave them air time on her Radio 1 "Drought Relief Programme". Through this the UJW received massive publicity and it gave the organisation credibility. People began to put their trust in the UJW and donations in cash and kind began to come in.

Under the auspices of the Hon Minister of Health, Dr Timothy Stamps, Operation Makhaza was officially launched in May 1992. In the Minister's words, "The UJW has set a precedent which we should all emulate."

The Jewish women undoubtedly left their mark in history. The reception that met them at Makhaza when they rolled in with their lorries laden with food was emotional. Local women were in tears, dirt tracks were lined with hundreds of children waving and dancing for the 'Majutas' (Jews). School children put on a dance, women ululated with joy and placards were displayed with 'Welcome Visitors' everywhere. Said Chairlady, Wendi Lepar, "No one present could be left untouched by the gratitude of this community ... it was a good lesson in humility and public relations."

In June 1992, 'Convoy Tshlotsho' was the coming together of all Zimbabweans for

the sole purpose of helping the less fortunate. Twelve trucks and cars, all laden with drought relief left Harare for Tshlotsho. "It was a very moving experience knowing that a nation of people had put their trust in the Union of Jewish Women's Feeding Programme," said Mrs Lepar. Jews and non-Jews worked together to unload and store the tonnes of food, clothing, vegetables, water containers, toys, blankets, kapenta — the list was endless.

Although the worst is over and the people of Makhaza are on the road to health, the UJW has kept up its

## Clean Joke

Who says humour does not exist during hard times. During the height of the drought, when Operation Makhaza was underway, Wendi Lepar greeted the food convoy with: "Waterless we may be, but our spirit is large and our appreciation sincere — we also hope you had a bath before you left Harare."

work. It has responded to the plight of the Khoi San (bushmen). It sponsored a World Health Day at Phumula Ward clinic, northwest of Makhaza. The women provided maize meal, high-protein biscuits, seeds and educational books.

The Bushmen, who by nature are very shy, sent representatives to the World Health Day, where they did a dance in honour of the UJW. About 4,000 people turned out.

At present the UJW has expanded its operations to include other areas of Matabeleland North, namely Gwayi, Lupani, Binga and schools in those areas.



In September 1993 Wendi Lepar and the UJW presented food and clothes to the destitute in Makhaza ward.

Regular consignments of food and clothing are sent to Harold Broomberg at Gwayi River Hotel where the Gwayi Lions Club distributes the items to the destitute, elderly and children.

The UJW has also responded to a request to supply basic foodstuffs for the discharged, malnourished children of Mpilo Hospital. This feeding programme is handled by the Paediatric Nutritional Centre and outpatients are regularly weighed and monitored for growth. This programme is on-going.

The feeding schemes not only provide happiness to a lot of people, but they are a worthwhile exercise in Jewish public relations. Early in 1992, remarks that could have been construed as anti-semitic came out of some Government quarters, but as Operation Makhaza progressed, an official of the areas being fed apologised on behalf of his people.

As a result of Operation Makhaza, the Jewish Women received favourable publicity around the country and internationally, both in print and in television headlines. The UJW has put Bulawayo on the map. ✪



Again at Makhaza ward (from left) Jackie Levy, Rodney and Wendi Lepar, Sandra Linde, Laurel Zurnamer, Ethel Bennet are on hand to give help while Dr Timothy Stamps "prepares" the sadza.





*Jewish Women's Communal League 1950s. (Front from left): Marie Aberman, Mabel Rubenstein, Stella Goldstein, Lily Miller, Millie Ellenbogen, Madge Ellenbogen, Hilda Radowsky, Ruth Jacobson, Dorothy Getz, Vicki Zasks. (Back): Emma Everkay, Cecelia Levy, Marcia Rubenstein, Milly Blumenthal, Ruth Katz, Betty Rabinson, Leah Solomon, Sarah Rubenstein, Girda Greenspan, Dora Kaplan, Ann Moss, Frieda Sacks, Miriam Masters (?), Lucia Lowenstein.*

## The Passing Parade

### Tirzah Feigenbaum

Born in South Africa 1936, she was a qualified pharmacist from Rhodes University. She married Alan in 1963. Her tradition became to hold an "open house" and have guests from all over at *Shabbat* and *Yom Tovim*. She gave a lifetime of service to the community. Her interest in *kashrut* established a special catering committee, Friends of the Shul, to provide kosher catering for Jewish functions.

### Poetic Licence

Some years ago in Bulawayo there was a famous jeweller's shop, Liebermans. A play was being staged at the Jewish Guild and Mr Lieberman approached the leading man who becomes engaged (in the play) to the beautiful heroine. He asked the actor, "Tut mir a favour, make for me an advert one night, put in some nice words about Liebermans Jewellers." On opening night, the leading man said to his fiancée, "Darlink I've bought you a beautiful diamond ring. I bought it at Lieberman's Jewellers." Unfortunately the actor was so thrown by his addition to the script that he dried up and forgot where he was in the play. So he turned to his "best man" and added hastily, "Wie heist zie?" (meaning his fiancée) and had to be re-introduced to his bride-to-be. The play then continued with out a hitch.

### Dr Leslie Jacobson

In 1990 he was awarded the Zimbabwe Medical Association's first merit award for his outstanding contribution to the profession. Made an Officer of the Order of the Legion of Merit for his services to medicine in 1971.

### David Blumberg

Lithuanian, enlisted in the Imperial Forces in South Africa. Came to Bulawayo in 1909 to represent liquor merchants. Took an active role in our community. During World War One he was active sponsoring the Jewish Guild Memorial Hall; leading businessman.

### Bonny Bris

Did you know ... When Michael Kluk was born in September 1965 he had to be *bruzzed* over Yom Kippur as, according to law, not even the High Holydays can put off a *briz*. Another first is the SECOND *Bar Mitzvah* of Max Gordon, held recently in our *shul*.

A second "barmey" takes place three-score-and- ten years, plus 13 years for the "coming of age" period, that is 83 years later. Well done Max. It seems you remembered all the lines and recorded yet another milestone to go down in our small congregation's illustrious past.

### Freda Keet

Daughter of Mrs and Mrs M Keet, she went on *aliyah* in 1963, where she joined Kol Israel as newscaster and announcer. Prior to that she was with the Federal Broadcasting Corporation in Salisbury.

### Max Greenspan

MM MBE. One of Rhodesia's best known ranchers, he arrived in 1903 and served in both world wars. He contributed generously to various Zionist and Israeli causes. He was national vice president of the 1967 Israeli Emergency Appeal. Died in 1968.

### Joseph Joseph

A 1893-96 pioneer, he was one of the early band of Zionists, who with J Janower, Louis Brodo, A M Abrahams, Isaac Epstein and Rev M I Cohen, was in the forefront of Zionism. He helped found the Chovevei Zion in 1898 and was president of the *shul* for many years.

### Wedding Woes

The Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation announced in 1952 that the marriage fees for non-members of the congregation would rise from 13 guineas to 23 guineas.

### Faiga Henne Grill

Born in Lithuania, she came to Rhodesia in 1900. Of her 11 children, eight lived in Rhodesia. She had 17 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

### Isaac Epstein

Little is known about this pioneer yet some biographical details do exist. Trooper I Epstein of "G" Troop BFF (Bulawayo Field Force) is confirmed on the roll as Isaac Epstein and he received a British South Africa Company medal "Rhodesia 1896." Kosmin in *Majuta* says that "the first commander of the Chovevei Zion was an English Jew, Morris Landau, and Isaac Epstein, a Russian-born Hebrew scholar, was treasurer". Later Marcia Gitlin in *The Vision Amazing, the Story of South African Zionism* says he was a Hebrew scholar who had served the Zionist cause even before he arrived in Africa and he was the moving spirit of the Chovevei Zion Society in Bulawayo. "He left permanent traces of his outstanding qualities of mind and character upon its development." Later, she writes, "(Rev Cohen) had taken no part in the Zionist movement before coming to southern Africa. But one of his closest friends almost from the day he set foot in Bulawayo was Isaac Epstein for whom he had a profound regard and who, he later admitted, 'made me a true Zionist. He was a great formative influence in my life'." Epstein is mentioned as having acted as librarian of the Chovevei Zion's library. Later N Sokolow in *A History of Zionism 1600-1918* writes: "Isaac Epstein now lives in Switzerland but he is in spirit and style decidedly a Palestinian. He lived for years in seclusion in a romantic tent among the hills of upper Galilee and wrote his work by the light of heaven. He remained faithful, as few priests have ever remained to their calling, a priest of the Hebrew language, which was revealed to him in all its beauty." It is uncertain whether this is the same Isaac Epstein. Does any one know what happened to our Bulawayo Epstein? ✦



# HOD carries on regardless

**B**ULAWAYO'S Hebrew Order of David, possibly the congregation's youngest organisation, was founded in July 1974. Prior to its inception, brethren from all over southern Africa visited our city toying with the idea of establishing a lodge.

Under the urging of the then Worthy Brother Solly Jossel, who became its first president, 53 men were initiated into Lodge Ashkelon (No.39). Setting this up was a hectic affair and a special plane was chartered from South Africa to Bulawayo — giving our city the privilege of becoming home to the first HOD lodge beyond the borders of South Africa.

The installation dinner was held at the Carlton Hotel, in Abercorn Street where LAMP House now stands. As the hotel had a new kitchen, Rabbi Zwebner was able to supervise the kosher catering and many people turned out for the event.

Over the past 20 years, Lodge Ashkelon has participated in many communal endeavours, for Jews and non-Jews. However, HOD is not a charity as such, and while willing to help many deserving causes, it does not usually donate money but rather services or physical items.

Two such recent donations were a new compressor for the cold room at Savyon Lodge and incubators for a bush hospital.

Some of its other sponsorships have been: Helping the Blind African School; supplying school uniforms for needy children in Bulawayo and Jerusalem (1977); giving scholarships to local needy Jewish children. In 1983, with \$910, a nursery school project was got underway. In the 1980s a highlight for underprivileged children was an annual trip to Victoria Falls.

Recently, the Lodge raised more than \$5,000 which was distributed to a number of charities, including King George VI. Brothers painted the Rabbi's home, held raffles, organised film premieres and sold homemade products for Jewish festivals.

Part of the mainstay of HOD has been to provide Jewish activities for the community. It calls on Jewish inmates at Bulawayo's mental institution; and a regular feature was the yearly *Chanukah* party with dances and quizzes, and the organisation of a communal *seder*.



The HOD take underprivileged children to Victoria Falls in the 1970s.

At present Lodge Ashkelon has about 30 members, with Wor Bro Heinz Simon as president. Numbers have dropped from about 60 when the lodge started to seven in 1984, due to emigration. "The funny thing is," says Bro Teddy Waks, vice president, "the complaints raised at its inception and every year since then are still being voiced today, but we carry on regardless." Bro Edward Bloomhill, in his HOD editorial, commented: "The smaller we are the more responsibility rests on the few. As a Jew, you (HOD members) are important to your community." The Lodge's survival is part of the member's own survival and that of the community. ✨



The consecration and installation of HOD Ashkelon Lodge 39 in September 1974. (Back from left): H Rothbart, D Melmed, M Bloch, L Samuelson, J Rubinstein, R Sacks, H Klein, I Shapiro, J Sonnabend, L Getz, Abe Bernstein, G Fisher, A Levin, J Hadel, J Brenner, L Sommer, H Israel, H Pincus, K Heim, H Simon, R Meyersohn, A Rachbind, S Whistler, E Schay, P Fleissch, O Loewenstein, A Furman, M Mirbach, H Kluk (MOC). (Middle): S Katz, B Sher (inner guard), L Forman (scribe). L Hammerschlag (marshal), S Rosenberg (marshal), I Donsky (MOC), M Golden (trustee), E Hammerschlag (trustee), O Zlattner, A Simon.



# YOUNG FACES



*(Picture left): Nursery School Purim Party, 1937. (Front): Natie Benyishai, Ruth Gordon sitting in chair, Ronnie Lange standing 3rd from left. (Sitting from left): Aubrey Keet (?), Doreen Wolfsohn (?), Yolanda Sonnabend, —, Suzanne Stransky, —, Sonia Gershone (?). (At back): Mrs Pines the teacher with Robin Mayers to her right and David Wolfsohn to her left.*

*(Picture below): Kindergarten 1937: Shoshana Pines and Luba Gershater with the Chanukah party children.*

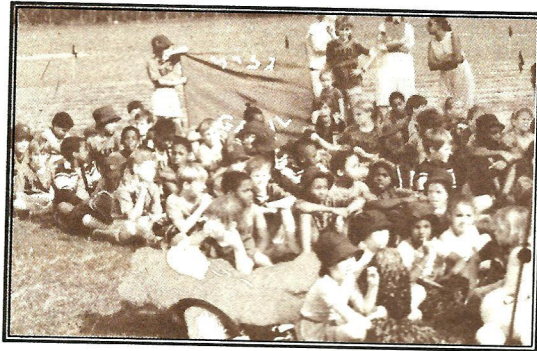
*(Below): A group of Zionist youth with Barney Katz and Rev Yesorsky.*



*(Picture right): Times change, smiles don't. Carmel School sports' day, Galil House, 1992.*



*(Picture below): Rev Cohen top left with a Purim party outside the Guild, 1932.*



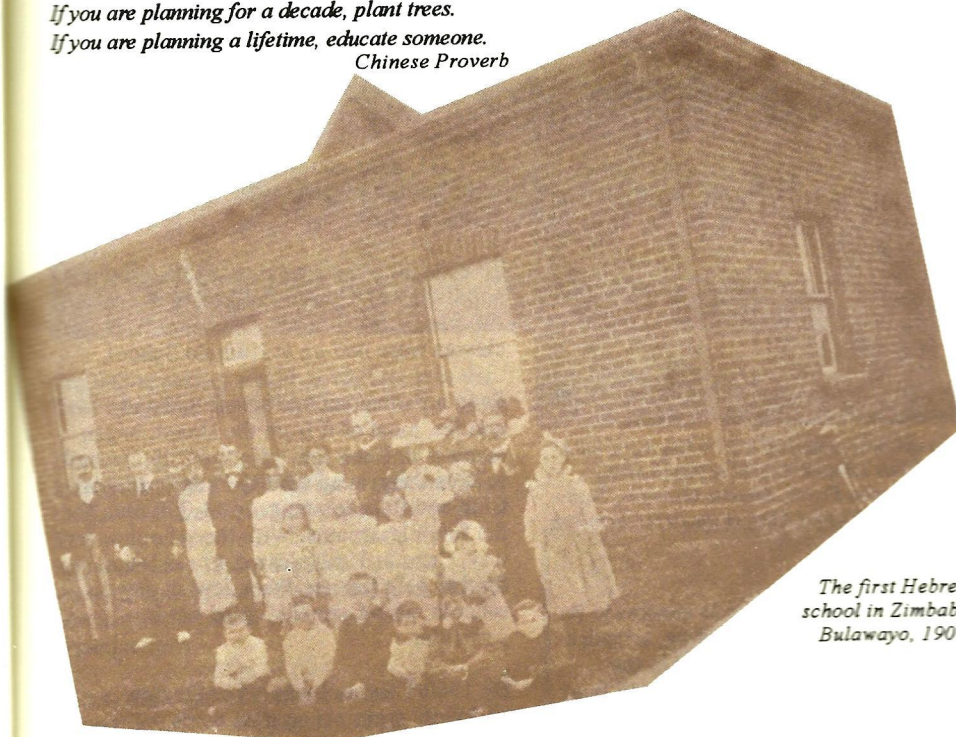
*(Picture bottom right): Happy Carmel faces.*





# Education becomes prime concern

*If you are planning for a year, sow rice.  
If you are planning for a decade, plant trees.  
If you are planning a lifetime, educate someone.*  
Chinese Proverb



*The first Hebrew school in Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, 1901.*

by Elsa Roth

**E**DUCATION has always been of paramount importance to Jewish communities everywhere and Bulawayo is no exception.

The first Jewish children in the town attended local schools for their general education but a need for Jewish education was perceived and the Communal League ladies undertook this activity in 1897.

A year later a more organised start in Hebrew education was made by Miss Frank, Miss Cinamon, Miss Lowenstark, Mr A B Diamond, Mr Freilich and the Zionist Society. Miss Lowenstark held a Sabbath service for the little ones, while some 20 children were taught on Sundays.

In 1898 an Education Board was formed and for some time Miss Lowenstark took a small day school which had Government support, for which she was paid the princely salary of £17 a month.

But the community was still not satisfied with the standard. After much in-house squabbling and controversy, it was decided to hire a minister to oversee Hebrew education. In 1900 the Rev M I Cohen arrived, and a very auspicious arrival it proved to be, for he contributed to the fledgling community not only educationally and spiritually, but he inspired its members. In 1952 Rev Cohen managed to get Hebrew recognised and taught at Government schools as one of the classical languages and he persuaded Louis Landau and Charelick Salomon to offer £20 bursaries to pupils who passed their junior certificate in Hebrew.

The official attitude towards religious education in Government schools was initially dictated by Cecil Rhodes, who felt that religious instruction should be part of the curriculum. Over the years, Rhodesian Jewry forcefully defended the right of their ministers to enter schools and, whenever possible, made use of this legislation. The existence of the so-called "Rhodes Clause" allowed the Jewish community, led by Rev Cohen, to insist on Hebrew education for their children most of whom, at that time, attended Catholic or Anglican schools.

However, the problem of religious classes in the secular day schools led the community to return to the traditional Jewish education medium, the cheder, the largest of which became the Louis Landau Hebrew School.

A bequest from Mr Landau made the building of the school possible. It was formally opened in October 1935 and cost £2,000. Classes met for a few hours on weekday afternoons and on Sunday mornings when the children were taught Hebrew and religion at the *cheder* by the minister, a trained teacher or sometimes by a knowledgeable layman. Some of the teachers whose names may ring a bell are Rabbi Kramer, Mr and Mrs Nenkelbaum, and Sonia Orkin. The main concern of parents was to prepare their youngsters for the *Bar Mitzvah* ceremony.

By 1944 Louis Landau School had a staff of three teachers and 25 pupils. During the same time about 200 German refugees began to arrive bringing with them specialised knowledge which was well-used by the community. Special English classes were introduced for the immigrants and they, in turn, imparted their Hebrew and Yiddish. These new-comers left to find successful jobs, such as Miss B Jourdan, who taught at Coghlan School after learning at the English *ulpan*. Her expertise was special education for backward children and she set up new curricula which were used throughout the country.

Some children boarded at Eveline and Milton schools, but came on Saturday and Sunday mornings to learn to read the *Siddur* (prayer book). On Saturdays they attended reading lessons first and then went to *shul*. There was no official choir but the boys who attended *cheder* sang the response after the cantor and Chaim Gershtater, their Hebrew teacher, was choir master. Louis Landau School grew over the years and despite the torments suffered by the teachers at the hands of their unruly pupils, a high standard was achieved.

Obtaining and keeping teachers, who often doubled as cantors and were usually brought from England, always proved difficult and the system was constantly criticised. The general dissatisfaction with



*Carmel School pupils plant trees for their new school, September, 1961.*





*The first nine pupils of Carmel Jewish Day School, Bulawayo who attended KG1 when the school started in January 1958, which at that time was in the Louis Landau School in Jason Moyo (Abercorn) Street. (From left) Michael Ross, Michael Pinn, Ardon Frank, Annette Genende, Ivan Fleisch, Geoffrey Klein, Stephanie Jason, Jennifer Glickman, and Harold Aber at the first Chanukah party of the school.*

the school would continue beyond kindergarten. Many parents reacted saying if that was they case they would not have started the school. The PTA also objected to all the fund raising, claiming the Board should do its bit.

But the matter was settled when the Board assured parents it would continue to assist. It informed parents it was "pleased" that the school would now accept applications for KG1, KG2 and Std 1 for 1960. Places were limited so parents had to enrol their children early.

To cope with the education of the growing population of Jewish children in the eastern suburbs, extra *Talmud, Torah* and Hebrew classes were laid on at Kumalo School.

Soon a permanent site was found and monies, most of it from the Board, began coming in. Later that year the City Council sold us the ground next to Parkview Sport Club and four donors gave £1,000 each for the four classrooms. With the school under way, Cazo in 1960 created a foundation fund to help finance other Jewish day schools, with Carmel singled out in particular.

By 1960/1 Carmel was set in the new Parkview premises on nine acres. Bulawayo became the first community of its size (c 2,800 in 1958) in the

Jewish education came to a head in 1957, when only 60 percent of Jewish children were enrolled in *cheder*.

This situation and the heightened fervour caused by Zionist activities made the community think about establishing its own full-time primary school which would give a general as well as a Jewish education.

And so the idea of Carmel School was born and planning began in earnest. Parents and past pupils recall how Barney Katz rode around the town on his bicycle in 1956-57 encouraging parents to send their children to the proposed Jewish day school.

Carmel opened its doors in February 1958 in the old Louis Landau building in Abercorn Street. Among its founders were Samuel Rabinovitz, Mr J B Katz and Barney Katz. It was aided by the Jewish Board of Deputies and Cazo and total enrolment was eight KG1 children. A ninth joined them during the year. Their first teacher was Joy Gruss.

The school owed much of its success to its PTA which held its first meeting, attended by 30 parents and Barney Katz, in the Guild Hall in July 1958. Parents held fund raising events for much needed amenities. A further 17 children were enrolled for the next year's KG1 class and every year a new class was added. The school flourished in the temporary premises provided by the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, but negotiations were underway for a permanent site.

Parent were anxious about Carmel's future. At that time Mr E Eliasov, president of the Jewish Board of Deputies, aroused much concern when he said the Board had never promised that



*The winning Over-12 soccer league (interschool), 1971, from Carmel. (Back from left): Joel Dorfan, Alan Ramsey (headmaster), David Hodes, (Middle): David Kibel, Ashley Konson, Kevin Bennett, Trevor Lange, Arik Steinberg, Stanley Miller. (Kneeling back): Philip Lazarus, David Trappler. (Kneeling front): Mark Finklestein, Danny Elkaim, Steven Tatz.*



*Carmel School as it is today.*

### Heads of Carmel School

1958	Joy Gruss	1977	Mr Godwin
1960	Kathleen McDonald	1977	Margaret Loder
1961	Nochum Drori	1979	Margaret Graham
1962	Mr Granowski	1980	Bill Padgen
1963	Isabel Barlow	1981	Barbara Goddard
1967	Alan Ramsay	1992	Valerie Malcolm
1960-82	Muriel Botherell taught for 23 years.		
1976-94	Rose Blackmore is still teaching there.		
1958-94	Daniel, groundsman, has been there from the start.		





English-speaking world to venture into the field of Jewish day schools.

It now had 160 pupils, five teachers — two more had joined Mrs N Pines and Mrs S Orkin — and classes had expanded to Std 2. A school governing body, made up of representatives from the Board, Cazo, parents, donors and supporters, took over administration from the sponsoring organisations.

The overall aim of Carmel was a harmonious mix of Jewish and secular education for children from KG1 to Std 5, with sporting and extra-curricular activities needed by the Government Education Department. There was little disagreement over the emphasis which was on Hebrew as a living language and religious instruction along orthodox lines. Priority entrance was given to Jewish children, but as soon as integrated private schools became legal in 1963, children from many cultures enrolled.

BA Kosmin writes: "The success of the Jewish day schools ... was particularly impressive (in Rhodesia) since it occurred during the years of severe crisis and uncertainly in the country generally."

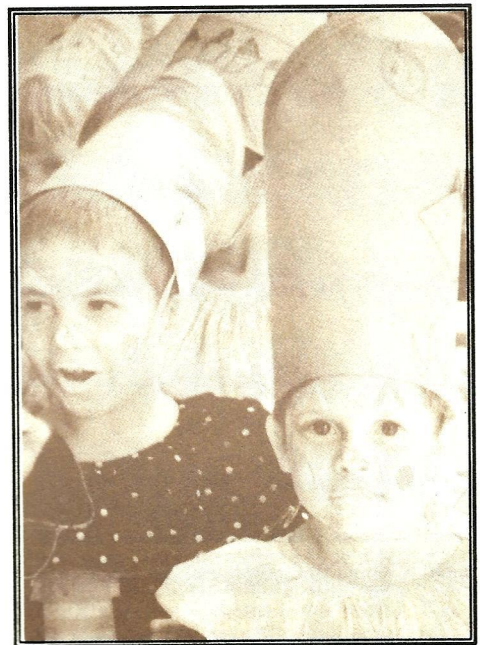
Pupils thrived and a new headmaster, Nochum Drori, arrived from Israel. A special Hebrew department was set up. Mr Drori called the school the "jewel in the cultural crown of Bulawayo"

By now Carmel had full primary school status and its first Std 5 class graduated at the end of 1964. It had grown so much that there was no room to hold assembly, PT or music. A school hall was needed and a mammoth fete was held to raise funds.

That year had another milestone for seven girls celebrated with a communal *Bat Mitzvah* in the *shul* — the first Carmel pupils to do so after having religious instruction at the school. The service was conducted by Rabbi M Konviser, Salisbury minister who stood in for Rabbi Yesorsky who had recently died. The following year Carmel was visited by the Chief Rabbi of South Africa, Rabbi B M Caspar.

The school maintained Zionist ties and in 1967, pupils wrote letters to Israeli soldiers in the front lines during the Six Day War. A weekly "tickey" day was held to raise

(Above): Miriam Lewin, a Hebrew teacher, with Carmel children at Pesach, 1992. Today children of all races and religions attend. (Right): Purim 1992, Shlomo Lepar and Louis Treger.



Louis Landau Hebrew School, 1994, which now houses Wizo and other communal meetings.

funds for Israel. In 1972 a new school hall, the Darryn Cohen Hall, was opened attended by about 350 pupils, parents and guests. Tribute was paid to the Board and Cazo for their continuous moral and financial support. The school was also grateful to Mr and Mrs Victor Cohen of Salisbury who had the hall built in memory of their son, Darryn.

When the Rhodesian Ministry of Education visited Carmel in 1975, officials were satisfied with the school's high standard. The school council also reported that 78 percent of Jewish children eligible *did* attend the school. By now it has also had a qualified Hebrew teacher from Israel.

Then things changed. With the general exodus of Jews from trouble-torn UDI Rhodesia, the 1976 intake was poor and although it did improve the following two years, an appeal went out to parents to reconsider and enrol their children. Tragedy struck in 1977 when popular headmistress, Margaret Loder, was killed with members

of her family, in the first Viscount Air Disaster. A drinking fountain was erected at the school in her memory in 1979.

By 1979 the school's Board of Governors was congratulating itself on its far-sighted approach of having the school change to becoming integrated for children of all faiths and denominations. Yet they did manage to keep the specific requirements of Jewish and Hebrew education. Over the years it has adapted to a more international form of education. Two years later Carmel opened the Russel Kwasnik Library and a school tuck shop — to cater for both intellectual and physical hungers!

Carmel celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1988 and in the Anniversary School Magazine, Tizah Feigenbaum, chairperson of the Board of Governors, wrote: "I hope and pray that the coming years will be even better and that we may always be 'a light unto the nations.'"