



Cleveland Cavalcade

By Violet Spevack

We Sing, We Dance!...

Frailich and folksy was the Workmen's Circle fourth annual Yiddish Concert in the Park held last Sunday in the open air of the Cain Park Amphitheater, where several thousand people sitting on lawn chairs and lounging on pillows and blankets on the grassy knoll all the way up the hill enjoyed both the music and the informal atmosphere of the happening.

Headliner of the concert was the old master himself, Cantor Saul Meisels, formerly of the Temple-on-the-Heights, accompanied by his wife Ida Ruth, whose performance was a triumphant, glorious return to familiar grounds from their home in Florida. Meisels' rendition of treasured Yiddish melodies thrilled the crowd, showing again that he is a gifted singer of Yiddish music as well as a superb hazzan.

An added pleasure was the appearance of the Meisels' daughter, Florence Nelson, an accomplished flutist, who accompanied him on several numbers.

The evening also included the klezmer music of the Barry Cik orchestra, several wedding dances by the Shalhevet Dancers and some songs by the I.L. Peretz Children's Chorus, directed by Julian Gawiser, who almost stole the show. The charming finale was an echoing "Cirri-cirri-bin" by Meisels and the kids in the chorus.

The place was a maze of menschen: Mamlaschen mavens like Marilyn Baruch, Sonia Teper and Esther Schachner (director of the I.L. Peretz School); Bearded bards like Dr. Reuben Silver, chairman of the concert committee; Red-bearded barrister William Bein, with his 10-month-old son Joseph Hillel in his lap; and balabatische blondes like Magda Sternbach, who headed the reception committee at the gala reception held after the concert.

Enjoying the concert were the David Mazanskys of Johannesburg, South Africa, who are visiting their children, Dr. Hillel and Reva Mazansky of Pepper Pike; Rabbi Milton Rube and his father-in-law, Bernard Zipser, watched from their "loge" seat atop the stone balcony walk; and we chatted with newly-marrieds (second time around)... Jerry and Miriam (Brifman) Stamer, who were married just three months ago, and Sam and Janet (Kravitz) Melamed, who wed just two weeks before the concert.

Personable Michael Leibovitch, who emigrated here from Russia some six years ago, was sitting on the grass with his darling, chubby-faced 2 1/2-year-old son, Eric. Michael, 32-years-old, asserted, "At home we only talk Yiddish to the kids. We want them to know 'our' language." We also spoke to Bobby and Sally (nee Mandel) Brown, who were married in Youngstown the previous week. Bobby, who converted to Judaism in an Orthodox ceremony, is black and an anthropology student at Youngstown State University. He agreed with me that it was a great night to be Jewish!

Around the Town...

New members of Brandeis University Women's Committee (50 new members signed up at the recent telethon) enjoyed sunny skies, a delicious petite lunch and excerpts from a hit Brandeis musical on July 8 in the lovely poolside setting of Marlene Schleifer's home on South Woodland. Another highlight of the afternoon was seeing those attractive,

young Brandeis members modeling Trudy Kahn's stunning, hand-painted fashions, with her mother, Anne Zylberberg, kvelling from the sidelines. Betsy Cohen and Saydell Robbins made an unofficial debut as the Women's Committee duopresidents, and they are a smashing twopair. Betsy's ecstatic report on the recent convention week at Brandeis University whetted the appetite for involvement in the Women's Committee... and where else, but at Brandeis, can you sleep overnight in a dorm called "Shapiro?" Millie Korman and Lenora Riemer were co-chairpersons of the event.

Luntz Park, adjacent to Montefiore Home, was the scene of a happy, heimish picnic last Sunday for residents and their families. Nostalgic tunes pealed out from the Big Sound of Bill ("WEEZ") Rosenberg's Band, provided gratis by the Musicians Union. Everyone laughed at the antics of clown Jane Friedman and enjoyed the duets sung by Jane and new board member Gerrie King, who is a well-tuned "Second-Hand Rose."

Whirling around to the music was diminutive Ida Schwartz, whose red print dress blended with the mop of red hair worn by her clown partner, Ethel Elgart, 82-year-old Russian immigrant, danced with Anita Seidemann, who... with the rest of the family... was visiting Anita's dad, Philip Rudolph, president of the Residents' Council. There were three and four generation families sharing in the day of fun... like the four-generation family table of resident Flora Salomon.

Montefiore prexy, Elmer Paul, was chief barker, with incredible volunteer Kervans Klivans at his side. They passed out all the wonderful prizes which Frances had solicited single-handedly. The passing parade at the picnic included: a blend of youngsters and golden-age enjoying together.

Volunteers worked like Trojans, including Emilie Goldstein and Dorothy Goldschmidt, who chaired the exciting event. Leonard Kaplan, a vice president of Montefiore, was here, there, and everywhere... taking pictures with his video equipment. Youngest picnic-er present was four-month-old Zachary Nearman in the arms of his dad, Howard. Oldest person at the picnic... we'll never tell!

Birthday of the Week...

"Life Begins At Forty" was said at least 40 times, well three times, at Temple Emanu El services last Friday, where the closely-knit congregation and many friends feted Rabbi Daniel Roberts on the occasion of his "Big Fortieth." A loving tribute, laced with warmth and wit, was tendered by Rabbi David Hachen, who described Rabbi Roberts' accomplishments and strengths as he reaches the Age of Bina (understanding). Rabbi Roberts, associated with Temple Emanu El for ten years, is also celebrating his bar mitzva year in the rabbinate. The gala reception following the service had a special treat, the showing of "ERETZ," the excellent multi-image slide show produced by Rabbi Roberts and Elaine Rembrandt. But, before that happened, there was a surprise for Producer Daniel Roberts... a marvelous multi-image show of his life, done by Elaine and Joel Solloway. To top it all off, the rabbi, a hopeless "chocolatic," was presented with a chocolate racquet ball racquet by Ethel Shultz, president of the Sisterhood. There was also a mammoth all-chocolate birthday cake.

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