

The Arbeiter Farband

The Arbeiter Farband in Memphis dates back to 1920. The founders of this Jewish National Organization, which is branched out through the United States and Canada were: A. Novak, L. Berger, N. Schechtman, J. Scheinberg, I. Elster, and A. Schneider. In 1922 Mr. Meyer Brown, General Secretary of the New York Office, visited Memphis and this strengthened the Memphis organization. A campaign was undertaken for the Workers in Palestine and the local organization became also interested in literary work and it was this year that they also realized the importance of a local Jewish School.

The founders of the school were: Hyman Rushansky, J. Scheinberg, Joe Shankman, Leon Berger, A. Novak, A. Green, and Mrs. A. Green. A fund for maintaining this school was created by the above mentioned and Mr. Kahansky was brought down as the first teacher. Mr. Nathan Schechtman was appointed as Secretary and Principal. Headquarters for the School in those days was in the basement of the Beth El Emeth Congregation, wherein they brought their own chairs and school-books. As for transportation, anyone who was the possessor of an automobile called for the children, brought them to school, and after school took them back to their homes.

Later a school house was rented at 450 Alabama St. where school was continued for another year. A change in the administration led also to the change of the teacher. Mr. Zucker took Mr. Kahansky's place, and afterwards Mr. Zucker's place was filled by Mr. Moishe Haar.

Mr. Haar again chose a new administration and it was to this administration that the idea of a home and a Center for the Farband's Cultural activities was conceived. Mr. Nathan Schechtman resigned, and Mr. L. Berger was elected the new Secretary for the school, L. Dubrovner Secretary of the Farband. At that time there were only twelve children in the School. Three months later the number reached forty-two. The new school committee consisted of Messrs. Novak, Pinstein, Cohn, Glazer and Berger. And so they continued for two years successfully.

On August 1929, a Sinking Fund was created and with the sum of six hundred dollars, a Credit Union was organized with Mr. Aleck Pinstein as President. It was from this Union that a loan was obtained for a schoolhouse and also for a motor bus which would facilitate the transportation of the children to and from school. A house was purchased at 638 Alabama Avenue and remodeled and brought into proper shape and conditions; the schoolhouse, which is now the Farband Culture Center, represented an investment of nine thousand dollars. The house is equipped with modern classrooms for the school, a Jewish