

Baltimore names



HENRIETTA SZOLD
Founded Hadassah

This year Baltimore is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding as a town. Each Thursday, The Evening Sun is publishing a series of short biographical sketches of people connected with the history of the city or people who in some manner have contributed to its enrichment.

Szold drive in Pikesville honors Henrietta Szold (1860-1945) Baltimore-born founder of Hadassah, the American Zionist organization for women, and the first woman elected to the Jewish Hall of Fame.

Henrietta Szold, daughter of Rabbi and Mrs. Benjamin Szold, was a respected school teacher in the 1880's when thousands of East European Jews were immigrating to the United States, many of them to Baltimore. In 1888, when a group of young people formed a Hebrew Literary So-



SZOLD DRIVE IN PIKESVILLE

ciety here, Miss Szold suggested to the members that they sponsor a night school for the teaching of English to the newly arrived Russian Jews.

The pioneer school opened in 1889 with Henrietta Szold as its first superintendent. Expanded several times, it was the forerunner of public night schools in Baltimore. By the time it ceased to exist in 1897, more than 5,000 people had attended English and Americanization classes at the Russian Immigrant School—not only Russian Jews but other immi-

grants as well, including Germans and Catholic Russians and Poles.

After a 1907 trip to Palestine, Miss Szold became interested in improving health conditions there and in 1912 organized a group of women for that purpose. Hadassah now has 360,000 members worldwide.

When she was 73 and living in Palestine, Henrietta Szold became the head of Youth Aliyah which after 1934 brought thousands of Jewish children to Palestine from Europe. She died in Palestine at age 85.

Josephine Novak