

SA-SIG

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<http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/>

Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There has been some degree of concern about the recent alliance between *JewishGen* and *Ancestry.com*. In the current issue of *Avotaynu* (Vol. XXIV), Dr David Marwell, Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage (*JewishGen* is an affiliate of the Museum) writes about the linking. All records available on *JewishGen* will remain free to everyone. Better technical support will make *JewishGen* more stable, robust, and improved functionality will result in more data online more rapidly. Public databases will be linked to *Ancestry* but private data, such as the *JewishGen Family Finder* and the *Family Tree of the Jewish People* will not be accessible to *Ancestry.com* subscribers, but will remain under control of *JewishGen*, as will the mailing lists and the *JewishGen* website. Marwell states he is relieved rather than concerned because everyone benefits and the future of *JewishGen* is assured.

JewishGen's administrative offices are now onsite at the museum, and visitors can access *JewishGen* in the Museum's resource room. Future plans involve a **Keeping History Centre** where *JewishGen's* and the Museum's collection and resources can be perused. I have visited the resource room with its library and computers and this will be of great benefit to general public who may not previously have had exposure to *JewishGen*. I know Warren Blatt, the CEO, from many conferences, and met the financial director and can assure every doubter that *JewishGen* is now solidly managed as any proper business should be, and has proper planning for the future in place

I hope that other Jewish museums take notice and implement similar schemes.

Saul Issroff

London, saul@issroff.com

EDITORIAL

In October I had the pleasure of attending the first Australian Jewish Genealogical Conference which was held in the national capital of Canberra. About 80 people attended coming from as far afield as New Zealand and Israel. Some of the speakers included:

The Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG)

The purpose and goal of the Southern Africa Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) is to bring together Jewish genealogy researchers with a common interest in Southern Africa and to provide a forum for a free exchange of ideas, research tips and information of interest to those researching Jewish family history in the communities of South Africa, Lesotho (Basutoland), Botswana (Bechuanaland), Zimbabwe (Southern Rhodesia), Zambia (Northern Rhodesia), Swaziland, Mozambique, Kenya, and the former Belgian Congo.

The SIG has been producing a quarterly Newsletter since 2000 in which is included articles on personalities in the Southern African Jewish community, religious congregations, communities – past and present and general news about the lives our Southern African families led.

Further information on how to subscribe to the Newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/index.htm>

If you would like to contribute articles to the Newsletter, accounts should include descriptions of families of the community, aspects of local Jewish life, its institutions and particular character. Jewish involvement in the community at large, its history, business life and development could be featured as well.

Articles for printing in the Newsletter should be sent to Bubbles Segall, Editor, at bubbles.segall@wagait.net

General enquiries about the Newsletter can be sent either to Bubbles or to Mike Getz at MikeGetz005@comcast.net

The SA-SIG maintains a set of Web Pages that can be found at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica>

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- *Martha Lev-Zion from Israel, the co-founder and president of the Negev branch of the Israeli Genealogical Society;*
- *Julia Church, senior reference officer with the National Archives of Australia in Canberra;*
- *Liz James, Debbie Jurblum, and Lionel Sharpe from Victoria who were among a group of 40 genealogists who visited the Red Cross International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen in Germany recently.*

Sessions included Pre-WWII Australian Research, Post-WWII Research, Genealogy Resources in the Australian National Archives, the Australian War Memorial, Research in countries such as Poland, the UK, Hungary, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.

About 20 people attended a session on South Africa/Lithuania/Latvia research. The panel for this session included Martha Lev-Zion, Dianne Johnstone, and me.

We have contributions from two new authors whom many of you would be familiar with. The first is Dr Rose Lerer Cohen, who is one of the Israeli Coordinators on the SA-SIG Board. She has researched the holdings of the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem, particularly looking at genealogical and historical material pertaining to South Africa.

The second newcomer is Louis Zetler who documented the burials in the Stellenbosch Jewish Cemetery for *JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry*. He has created databases of South African and ex-South African births, marriages and deaths, a useful source of information for generations to come.

In the June 2008 issue of the Newsletter we mentioned that Volume 1 of *Jewish Life in South African Communities* was out of print and that if enough people were interested in purchasing a copy, it would be reprinted. Well, thanks to everyone, Volume 1 has now been reprinted.

The *Revisiting Muizenberg Team* is still on the look out for more information for their 2009 exhibition. See their article for more information.

In the September 2006 issue of this Newsletter we featured an article about a book which had just been

launched about the Arcadia Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg – *100 Years of Arc Memories*, edited by David Sandler. David has commenced a book about the Ochberg Orphans and is looking for contributions from the children of Ochberg Orphans.

Last year we told you about the *Sydney Jewish Museum* looking for memories of life in South Africa for a forthcoming exhibition to celebrate migration to Australia. This exhibition opened a few weeks ago and has some interesting stories and exhibits.

Bubbles Segall

Editor

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MANFRED SCHWARTZ



Anthony Schwartz has reported the sad passing of his father Manfred in East London, South Africa, on December 23, 2008. Manfred's wife Nora was at his side.

Over the years, Manfred has been an extensive contributor to the SA-SIG Newsletter, and his articles, e-mail messages, and electronic dialogues will be greatly missed in the future. The Board of the SA-SIG offers its condolences to the Schwartz family at this sad time.

If you wish to communicate with Anthony directly, please contact him at *a.schwartz@virgin.net*

INSIGHTS INTO SOUTH AFRICAN GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL HOLDINGS

The Central Zionist Archives, Jerusalem

Dr Rose Lerer Cohen

1. Introduction

The CZA is the archives of the Zionist movement. Its records cover the years 1880 – 1970 and document the growth of the Zionist movement worldwide, the development of the Jewish Home in Palestine and various aspects of the history of the Jewish people in the last 120 years.

In particular, the archives aims to collect, preserve and encourage the use of the archives of the World Zionist Organization, the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National Fund and *Keren Hayesod*, as well as the archives of the World Jewish Congress and various other bodies. The CZA also holds the private papers of individuals active in the Zionist movement and in the development of Palestine and Israel.

In addition, the CZA houses over half a million photographs, 50,000 maps and plans, over 18,000 posters and announcements, a large collection of ephemera, 13,000 newspapers and periodicals, a library, and a microfilm collection. Along with the Hebrew University, the CZA also runs the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive, which houses over 3,000 film and video titles. Visit the website <http://www.zionistarchives.org.il>

There is a vast amount of material relating to South Africa in the Central Zionist Archives that deals with the history of Zionism and of the Jewish community in South Africa, the Holocaust and the genealogy of South African Jews. As an ex-South African, paging through the documents, I felt as if I was living the past history of the country of my birth.

Genealogical research is made up of both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources may be found in the archives, such as oral history collections, or photograph archives or any other source that holds original documentation, while the secondary sources may be found in books or in any other material that enhances the primary source material. The primary source serves as the basis for

research. The primary source material at the CZA is not only of a historical nature, but of a genealogical nature too. Thus it not only enhances genealogical research, but also serves to augment the historical aspects of this research, emphasizing the way in which history and genealogical research are inextricably linked. The historical documents provide us with the framework for genealogical research as the historical material not only unfolds the history, but also tells a story.

A large number of the documents consist of lists of names. These names have not been indexed or entered into a database. In order to index the names, each file within each record group would have to be examined individually and if a list found, it would be entered into a database. This is an almost impossible task.

2. Holdings

The aim of this article is to introduce the genealogist and family researcher to material relating to South Africa in the CZA. The volume of the material in the archives is so extensive that I have taken just a few examples to give the reader an idea of the different aspects that can be researched at the archive. For the purposes of this article, I have divided the record groups into two sections:

- A. South African Historical Issues
- B. Genealogical Research

A. South African Historical Issues

There is much material relating to the history of South African Zionist activity in the community, such as the organizing of various Zionist activities and fund-raising events, the activities of the Jewish National Fund and *Keren Hayesod*, and correspondence relating to immigration matters, Youth *Aliyah* and *Machal*.

Here are examples of some of the archives that the CZA holds that are relevant to the history of South African Jewry:

F24 - First and foremost, it should be noted that the CZA received the archives of the South African Zionist Federation in the 1970s. There are nearly 160 boxes of material reflecting the wide range of activity of the South African Zionist Federation from its founding until the 1970s.

S5 - Worth noting too, is the material of the Organization Department of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem that organized the various Zionist activities that took place, including the Zionist Congresses and the delegations that represented each country.

S6 - The CZA also holds the papers of the Immigration Department of the Jewish Agency which contains files of correspondence on immigration (*aliyah*) from South Africa.

S32 - There files on South Africa in the Youth and *Hehalutz* Department of the Jewish Agency which

oversaw the activities of the various Zionist youth movements over the years.

L62 - Noteworthy are the papers of the Overseas Volunteer Settlement Office containing correspondence concerning the *Machal* volunteers (*Mitnadvei Chutz Laaretz*) from South Africa.

A354 - The papers of Chief Rabbi Joseph Herman Hertz contain a wealth of information on the Jewish community in South Africa.

Following are a number of examples of documents I found on South African Jewry:

From file number S6/4591: This document casts information on the contribution of South African Jewry to the welfare of the new State.

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

119, RUE SAINT-DOMINIQUE
PARIS (7^e)

-2-

TELEPHONE
INVALIDES } 87-83
 } 87-55
 } 79-37
CABLES & TELEGRAMS
JOINTFUND-PARIS

EUROPEAN EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL

April 22nd, 1949.

Jewish Agency for Palestine
Jerusalem, Israel

The 130 cases consist of the following:

- a. 89 cases containing 14,856 used garments and 1,334 items used household linen.
- b. 28 cases containing 4,991 prs. used footwear
- c. 13 cases containing 702 "Friendship Boxes"

The gross weight of the shipment is 23,537 lbs.

The unit valuation is 5/- for the used garments and household linen; 2/6 for the used footwear; 15/ for the Friendship boxes.

We will send you detailed packing list under separate cover. The South African Jewish Appeal, 78 End Street, Johannesburg, South Africa would appreciate it if you would notify them of the condition of the goods upon arrival and full details of the eventual distribution.

Sincerely yours,


Moses Levine
Traffic Manager

ML/eo
cc: AJDC Jerusalem
AJDC Tel Aviv
Mr. Butkowski
Mr. Goldstein

The Joint Distribution Committee receives its funds in the United States through the United Jewish Appeal. Outside of the United States the Joint Distribution Committee has the active cooperation of the South African Jewish Appeal; the United Jewish Refugee & War Relief Agencies, Canada; the Central British Fund; the Junta de Ayuda pro Victimas de la Guerra, Argentina; United Jewish Overseas Relief Fund, Australia; Compana Unida Reconstruccion Ayuda, Mexico, and others

From file number KH4/10821: The list below of Keren Hayesod donors is one of hundreds of pages of names in the archive. I found these lists fascinating, as one browses a familiar names pops up.

SOUTH AFRICAN KEREN HAYESOD

Handwritten: 1672/670 471 202

List of persons whose donations have been paid in full in the 1932 Campaign for the Keren Hayesod.

LIST NO. 25

Handwritten: 29th December, 1937

ABBREVIATIONS

T - Transvaal
C - Cape Province
R - Rhodesia

O - Orange Free State.

Name	Address	Amount of Donation	Date of Promise	Date of last Payment.
✓ Phil Myers	Capetown C. <i>4/1632</i>	£25. 0. 0.	Feb. 1932	July 1936
✓ Landau Bros.	Bulawayo R. <i>378</i>	500. 0. 0.	Mar. 1932	June 1934
Dr. Block & Mr. A. Friedman	Eloemfontein O. <i>381</i>	5. 0. 0.	Apr. 1932	Apr. 1934
✓ S. Rosenberg	Capetown C. <i>375</i>	12.12. 0.	Feb. 1932	Nov. 1933
✓ H. Spiro	Green Point C. <i>376</i>	20. 0. 0.	do	Apr. 1934
✓ M. Helfand	Wynberg C. <i>377</i>	6. 0. 0.	do	Jan. 1934
✓ S. Kassel	Woodstock C. <i>378</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	do
✓ H. Narunsky	do <i>379</i>	6. 6. 0.	do	Apr. 1934
✓ H. Gurland	Muizenberg C. <i>380</i>	30. 0. 0.	do	Sept. 1937
✓ B. Jaffe	Pretoria T. <i>381</i>	10. 0. 0.	do	May 1936
✓ Mrs. E. Meyer	do <i>402</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	Aug. 1933
✓ A. Shalovsky	Salisbury R. <i>420</i>	6. 0. 0.	Apr. 1932	Mar. 1934
✓ H.M. Jaffe	Somerset West C. <i>44</i>	52. 0. 0.	Feb. 1932	May 1934
✓ Mrs. I.J. Balkin	Johannesburg T. <i>45</i>	6. 0. 0.	do	June 1934
✓ Mrs. Emdin	do <i>46</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	May 1934
✓ Mrs. J. Feldt	do <i>47</i>	5. 5. 0.	do	June 1934
✓ Mrs. Fenster	do <i>48</i>	5. 5. 0.	do	do
✓ Mrs. E.V. Goldberg	do <i>49</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	May 1933
✓ Mrs. I. Ginsberg	do <i>50</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	Aug. 1933
✓ Mrs. R. Kantor	do <i>51</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	July 1934
✓ Mrs. I. Lipschitz	do <i>52</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	June 1934
✓ Mrs. L. Lipson	do <i>53</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	do
✓ Mrs. R. Lopato	do <i>54</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	do
✓ Mrs. Manashewitz	do <i>55</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	Sept. 1934
✓ Mrs. Meyerowitz	do <i>1666</i>	5. 0. 0.	do	June 1934

Born and brought up in Parow outside Cape Town, when I saw a name of a donor from Parow, I smiled and visualized the person and remembered his shop on Voortrekker Road.

This page demonstrates the difficulty of entering names onto a database. They are of genealogical interest as for example taking a name from the list below. A researcher who is looking for the name Helfand, is given information that M. Helfand was in Wynberg, Cape Town in January 1934. This information may serve as a springboard for future research.

To the right is an example of a questionnaire which appeared in the *Jewish Times* in South Africa in 1943. These questionnaires were filled out in South Africa and sent to the Search Bureau in Israel by those seeking remnants of their family whom may have survived the Holocaust and who they left behind when emigrating to South Africa.

B. Genealogical Research

The CZA holds a number of card catalogues and series of personal files relating mostly to immigrants to Palestine/Israel, amongst them immigrants from South Africa. These are of great value to genealogists.

The card catalogues have been scanned and the main details typed into various databases. The actual card catalogues are not open to the public. Within a few months the typed databases will be open to the public in the reading room of the Archives. Thereafter, the intention is to put the databases up on Internet, but that will no doubt take some time. These files relate immigration to Israel world over and not from South Africa in particular.

These databases are used by the staff of the Family Research Bureau of the Central Zionist Archives to answer queries. Requests can be made to the search bureau by mail, email or fax. See the website:

<http://www.zionistarchives.org.il>
(Family Research).

The only database open to the public is the passenger lists of immigrants who arrived in Israel between 1919 - 1974. The lists are in Hebrew. In order to make maximum use of the database, the researcher should have the date and year of immigration, if not the search is almost impossible. The search can only

From file number S4/720: This questionnaire is of genealogical value as it contains the names of the individuals, address, and their relationship.

SUPPLIED BY THE CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU
ON JEWS IN U.S.S.R. OF THE JEWISH AGENCY
FOR PALESTINE.

12 THE S.A. JEWISH TIMES, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1943

Information Bureau on Jews in Soviet Russia

QUESTIONNAIRE
regarding Whereabouts of Any Jew now in
the U.S.S.R.

SOME time back, the "S.A. Jewish Times" published several lists of names of Jews from Lithuania, Latvia and other places who had managed to escape to safety in Soviet Russia. Anyone desiring to obtain information about a relative or friend whose name has not appeared must fill in the following questionnaire and post it to the "S.A. Jewish Times," P.O. Box 2878, Johannesburg. Every effort will then be made to trace them.

FILL IN THIS FORM.
(Please write clearly in ink in Latin characters, except where otherwise stated)

A.—THE PERSON WHOM YOU ARE SEEKING.

Full Name in Hebrew Characters שולין סלון
Full Name in Latin Characters SOLIN Schachno
Full name in Russian Characters if possible Золун Салон

(As far as possible give names in all cases as they appear in official documents).

Age 36 Single or Married SINGLE
Profession Photographer Nationality Jew

Relatives who were together with person sought (give names, ages and relationship to person sought) MILAM DOWNY
Former address of person sought Tovsig
Last place of refuge (full address if possible) Tovsig, Lithuania
Place and name of institution where he last worked in place of refuge Tovsig and Rosemar
When and from where did the last information from person sought come? Buchara

Relatives of friends of person sought who were with him last, or were in touch with him. Give their present address if possible _____

B.—PUBLIC ACTIVITY.

If person sought has at all been arrested, state where and why, and with what sort of persons? _____
Has anyone applied anywhere for the person sought, and with what results? _____
Further details _____

C.—THE PERSON ASKING FOR INFORMATION.

Full Name LOUIS SOLIN
Full Address Current, Wife Victoria Woodstock
Place of Work _____
Relationship to person Brother
What are you asking us to find out? present address
Place Cape Town
Date 30/3/1943

REMARKS TO BE FILLED IN BY BUREAU

Index _____ File _____
Results _____

The search can only be carried out at the Archives.

I would like to point out again that there are numerous lists of names in various record groups in the archives. These lists have not been entered into a database and the researcher will find them in the files while researching in the various record groups.

Therefore if for example the researcher knows that a member of his/her family was active in *Machal*, researching the files on *Machal* will not only shed

light on the history of this period, but may also mention the individual or family being researched.

Genealogical databases

<i>Category</i>	<i> Holding Number</i>	<i> Holding Name</i>	<i> Language</i>	<i> Number of Cards</i>
Immigration	SP6	Card index and files of Candidates for Immigration and immigrants of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department, 1919-1969	Hebrew	400,000
Immigration	SC6	Statistical Card Index of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department, 1919-1948	Hebrew	200,000
Immigration	LC21	Card index of the Palestine Office in Riga for immigrants from Latvia, 1920-1939	Hebrew	2,000

<i>Category</i>	<i> Holding Name</i>	<i> Language</i>	<i> Number of Cards</i>
Immigration	Immigration registers, 1948-1970	Hebrew	
Search Bureau	Index of appeals to the Jewish Agency's Search Bureau for Missing Relatives	Hebrew	700,000
Youth Aliya	Hebrew card index of Youth <i>Aliyah</i> children, 1935-1995	Hebrew	305,000
Youth Aliya	Card index of Youth <i>Aliyah</i> children, 1933-1990	English	127,000
Youth Aliya	Card index of Children in Youth <i>Aliyah</i> institutions	English	107,000
Youth Aliya	Card index of Youth <i>Aliyah</i> "Teheran Children", 1942-1943	English	900
Youth Aliya	Card index of German Youth <i>Aliyah</i> children, 1933-1936	German	3,000
Recruiting Demobilization	Card index of enlistees of the Recruiting and Demobilization Offices of the Jewish Agency, 1942-1945	Hebrew	25,200

The material in the CZA is of enormous importance to the researcher. This is the first of a number of articles which will describe the holdings of the Central Zionist Archive and the value of these holding to researchers. Further articles will focus on the holdings in more detail. It is through this material that the researcher can become familiar with the rich Zionist history of South Africa and the part

part that individuals played in creating this history.

Biography

My family research began 18 years ago and has led me to interesting projects. I co-founded the Lithuanian Names Project which resulted in the co-publishing *The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941-1945*

Gefen 2002. I am a graduate of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem Oral History Course. I coordinated the University of Hagen, Germany Oral History - Slave Labour Project in Lithuania and South Africa. My PhD, titled Resilience and Achievement: The Case of Lithuanian Child Holocaust survivors focuses particularly on Lithuanian Holocaust. I have written and lectured extensively on many aspects of genealogy and family research. I have carried out family research projects in Eastern and Western Europe South Africa and Israel. I have done historical and photo research for numerous books and projects. Recently I have begun to specialize in documentation from the International Red Cross Archives (ITS) in Bad Arolsen. I have succeeded in locating and connecting Holocaust survivors all over the world by interconnecting the data from Holocaust archives and the documents of the ITS. As a professional genealogist, I am a member of the Israel Genealogical Society and a member of The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)

DATABASES OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Louis Zetler

My late father, Max “Boet” Zetler, of blessed memory, left school in Stellenbosch in Standard 6 and became something of a shepherd, overseeing the transfer of livestock on foot around the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape, and Namibia, until he opened a butchery at the age of 18. During his travels he naturally met most of the Jews in those areas. In doing so, he acquired an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Jews in those areas.

However, during the course of time, virtually all the Jews, e.g. of the Northern Cape and the country district *dorps*, have migrated either to Cape Town or to Johannesburg, and from there to every continent on earth. Keeping track of them is an almost impossible task, but the information in my databases goes some way in doing so.

When the *JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry* (JOWBR) started and I volunteered to do the Stellenbosch Jewish Cemetery using their template, it gave me the idea of creating databases of South African (and ex-South African) Jewish, births, marriages, and deaths. Not living in South Africa anymore, I was keeping up-to-date via a website on the Internet – *South Africa IOL* which can be found at

http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=33&click_id=2686

Since then, more websites have come online which assist me, such as:

- South African Rootsbank Jewish Database:
http://chrysalis.its.uct.ac.za/CGI/CGI_Rootweb.exe
- Johannesburg Chevra Kadisha:
<http://www.jhbchev.co.za>
- Netcare Hospital
<http://www.netcare.co.za/live/index.php>

In addition, I have a number of “correspondents” who keep me informed, most notably Stan Hart in Durban, whose brains I pick every so often.

My project started about October 2001.

The main purpose of these databases is to provide as much information as possible to enable future generations to trace their relatives. Thus I also have columns in my deaths databases for the city name and estate number. This makes it very easy for someone to establish the relatives of the deceased.

In addition to the principal databases, I also have “doubtful” births, engagements and marriages, and deaths databases. I store data of doubtfully Jewish and definitely not Jewish (but Jewish sounding) names in these files. Often these names appear again, perhaps in different contexts, and a decision can then be made as to whether the people concerned are Jewish or not.

My databases also contain information about births, engagements and marriages, and deaths which have not taken place within the country. The reason for this is that it indicates where people who formerly lived in the country have relocated to.

BIRTHS

An entry is made if *either one* of the parents is Jewish. The column headings are: Surname, Name of Father, Name of Mother, Mother’s Maiden Name, Date of Birth, Date of Advert, Sex, Baby’s Name, Grandparents, Great-Grandparents, Baby’s Siblings, Place of Birth, Place of Advert, Comments.

Date of birth and date of advert are alternatives, i.e. if the date of birth is indicated, this is the date that is inserted, but if no date of birth is indicated, the date of the advert is inserted.

Place of Birth/Place of Advert

If the place (town/city) of birth is indicated, this information is inserted in the *Place of Birth* column. If the place of birth is within the area of the publication of the newspaper, the *Place of Advert* column is left blank. If no place of birth is indicated or if the place of birth is not within the area of the publication of the newspaper, the *Place of Advert* column is utilized. My reason for using the *Place of Advert* column if the place of birth is not within the area of the publication of the newspaper is to indicate the demographic shift of the family.

ENGAGEMENTS and MARRIAGES

An entry is made if *either one* of the parties is Jewish.

The column headings are: Fiancé/Groom’s Surname, Fiancé/Groom’s Name, Fiancée/Bride’s Surname, Fiancée/Bride’s Name, Fiancé/Groom’s Parents, Fiancée/Bride’s Parents, Grandparents, Date (of engagement), Date/Advert, Place/Engagement, Place/Advert, Date/Wedding, Date/Advert, Comments.

If a mother was divorced and has re-married and her new married name is indicated, I add her new surname as (now Smith) after her name.

Place/Advert

If the advert indicates that one of the parties to the intended marriage is not from within the area of the publication of the newspaper, I include the place as indicated in the advert in this column. I try and indicate the places according to the parties if this information is available from the advert, e.g. if the groom is from a different place, I indicate where he is from first and afterwards I add the place of the advert.

Occasionally you may find that neither of the parties is resident in the area where the publication takes place. In this event I indicate the place of the groom, the place of the bride and the place of the advert (once again to indicate the demographic change).

Date of Wedding

If the date of the wedding is known, delete the date of the engagement, as it is now superfluous. If the wedding takes place in the same area where the engagement was announced or advertised, I usually only indicate where the wedding takes place.

DEATHS

Jews by birth or conversion, including Jews who have converted to another religion.

The column headings are: Surname, First Name(s), Maiden Name, Date/Birth, Date/Death, Date/Advert/Burial, Father, Mother, Spouse, Children, Siblings, Place/Death, Place/Advert, Cemetery, Plot no., Master’s office, Master’s no.

First Name(s)

I insert the official name, and any nicknames are inserted in brackets.

Date of Birth

This information I usually obtain from the advertisement of the estate (see below).

Date of Death/Date of Advert/Burial

These are mutually exclusive columns. If the date of death is indicated, this date is inserted. If no date of death is stated, or if the date of burial is published, either of these dates is inserted. I obtain dates of burial from the burial society website, if available.

Place of Death

If the person lived in an old aged home or infirmary, I assume that the person died in that town or city.

Place/Advert

If the place of death or the cemetery is known and either of them is in the vicinity of the advert, no entry is made in this column.

Cemetery

If the person was cremated, this fact is recorded together with either the place of death or the place of the advert.

Master's Office/Place of Probate and Master/Probate no.

The purpose of these columns is to provide a quick reference to the estate/probate file of the deceased. The court file can provide a mine of information about the family of the deceased.

Finding the file reference may be problematic. In South Africa, all estates over a certain value must be advertised in a newspaper in the area where the deceased resided prior to his death and in the Government Gazette. The advertisement should contain the following information: Full names of the deceased, date of birth or identification no. (In South Africa, the first 6 digits of the I. D. number reflect the person's date of birth), date of death, the deceased's last address, in certain circumstances, the name of the surviving spouse, the estate no.

Thus an advertisement of this nature can be of great value for the following reasons:

- a. Sometimes, such a notice may be the first indication to you that the person has died if no death notice was inserted when the person died.

- b. The full names of the deceased.

This will be the deceased's official names. Sometimes only the deceased's first name or nickname is given in the classified newspaper adverts, e.g. Sonny (which can represent any name), Issy for Israel or Isaac, Jack for Jacob, Max for Mendel or Mordechai, etc. If one has the official name, it makes it easier to trace other official documentation, e.g. if one wants to do a Deeds Office search for fixed property or rights registered in the name of the deceased, or in correspondence with any other official body.

- c. The deceased's last address

Sometimes the deceased lived most of his/her life in South Africa and went to retire with his/her children who are living in another country, but still leaving assets in South Africa. This will result in an estate file being opened in the Masters Office in the area where s/he resided prior to emigration. This will also indicate where you may find relatives of the deceased.

In generations to come, your great-great-great-great grandchildren may want to research their South African connection - and my databases will be the best place to start.

I am always on the look-out for new volunteers and "correspondents". Anyone looking for information can contact me at arlene@012.net.il

Louis Zetler
Hoshaya, Israel

IT'S NOT ALL BLACK AND WHITE: THE SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH STORY

The Curator's Perspective

Roslyn Sugarman
John Saunders Curatorial Chair

Editor's Note: *In the September 2007 issue of the Newsletter we called on all Jaapies to share their memories of life in South Africa. The Jewish Museum in Sydney was collecting stories for an exhibition to celebrate the complexity of South African migration to Australia. This exhibition was opened on 14 December. If you live in Sydney or are visiting Sydney, the exhibition is really worth seeing.*



The Schur Family, Durban 1958
Photo courtesy of Vivian Wolff

This photo of Nathan and Miriam Schur and their daughters Vivian (left) and Rachel was taken as a farewell photograph before Rachel left for America. The family only realised that they were sitting on a bench reserved for Europeans once the photo was developed. Rachel refused to take it with her: "I hated that I was made to feel superior to people because of skin colour. The sign at the back of the bench really hit home to all of us. I thought to myself – what am I doing here?"

When I immigrated to Australia in the year 2000, we came with a forty-foot container filled with household goods. In the token effort to reduce the load, I discarded mounds of memorabilia – birthday cards from school friends long forgotten, photographs of people no longer remembered, decorated diaries too embarrassing to read. Fortunately, discarding ephemera from the past is not the

habit of many of the ex-South Africans who contributed material to our exhibition.

Magpies and hoarders – they are the best kinds of people for gathering material for exhibitions. The exhibition displays objects that range from the humble to the spectacular – the small label from Helene Kilov's father's cheese factory, *Klipplaatdrift*; Manfred Freinkel's *Rand Daily Mail* newspaper from the day after architect-of-apartheid and Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's assassination; the black sash worn by Beryl Pinshaw protesting unjust apartheid laws; the Einstein family's mid 18th century silver Judaica rescued from a synagogue in Augsburg Germany when the family left for South Africa in 1934.

Also on display are two of the 24 letters written in 1964 by David Block to his wife Naomi during the four months in which they were separated. David had come to Sydney ahead of the family to set up home and find a job. I was entrusted with reading some of this personal correspondence in which David writes to advise Naomi of what she should expect when she arrives in Sydney, how to dress, where to shop and what the people are like. He writes to tell her of a nappy service for their baby, the fridge that he's bought for the flat he's moved into and the TV set that he's ordered. He was having, as he put it, a rough time walking the streets looking for a job, yet his letters are full of encouragement and optimism.

'Collectors' are another museum curator's dream – for example, Elza Levin's bell collection, numbering around 50, three of which are on show. They remind me of my aunt in South Africa who used the bell at the dinner table to call the maid to clear the table. Hopefully no longer used in post-apartheid South Africa, bells are retained by some as colonial relics and beautiful ornaments.

Not surprisingly, given how many Jews lived in rural, Afrikaans-speaking communities, we received for exhibition a Hebrew/Afrikaans Siddur from Tessa and Raymond Green, and Hebrew/Afrikaans *Haggadot* from Yvonne Berman and Shani Diamond. In the foreword of the Passover prayer books, Rabbi Israel Abrahams writes, *The translation serves the needs of so many Jews who have adopted Afrikaans as their mother-tongue, especially the Plattelanders, something not only appropriate, but necessary – indicating more than any statistic the extent to which the Jewish people have assimilated into the community in South Africa and also how deeply they have planted their roots in this land.*

The exhibits, together with the texts, quotes, stories and images offer the visitor not only a trip down memory

lane, but also an insight into the social, political and religious life of Jews in South Africa. The backbone of the exhibition is the historical narrative written by Louise Leibowitz, from arrival of the first Jews in South Africa, to economic success, Zionism, antisemitism, daily life, apartheid, then on to waves of migration and the many reasons for leaving. The exhibition unfolds with Destination Down Under – the joy of arriving in a new land, integration and settling in.

Jacqui Wasilewsky headed up the oral history project with volunteers interviewing people who came to Australia in each decade from the 1960s. Probably the most enjoyable part of the exhibition for me, and indeed for the co-curator Barbara Linz, was reading through the transcripts and selecting ‘quotable quotes’ which we have used throughout the exhibition to reflect that *it’s not all Black and White*.

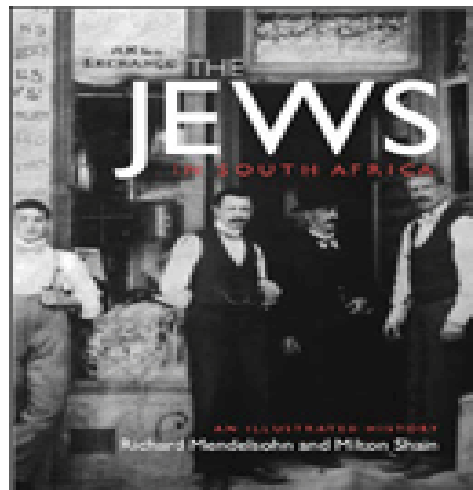
We were overwhelmed by the response to our request for artefacts, photographs and stories for the exhibition. All the material we have used is based on what has been received and collected over the past year. Unavoidably, some wonderful stories and artefacts have had to end up on the ‘cutting room floor’ of our database, less prominently displayed, but no less valued. In this spirit, I humbly thank all participants for sharing their stories with us.

It would not have been possible to create such an exciting exhibition without the time, effort and commitment made by some 30 volunteers in various capacities. Every volunteer will be acknowledged in the exhibition. We are also grateful to all those whose generous donation enabled the exhibition to be mounted.

Book Review

THE JEWS IN SOUTH AFRICA: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY by Professors Richard Mendelsohn and Milton Shain

Saul Issroff



This is the first comprehensive history of South African Jewry in over 50 years¹. Jews barely rate a mention in general histories of South Africa, and likewise general histories of world Jewry often omit South Africa. Many people in Israel, the USA, the UK, Australia and Canada have South African connections. For anyone doing more than the basics of genealogy, the socio-historical background to their families and their migrations is of interest.

Apart from Anglo-Jews, a small number of German Jews were pioneers in the 19th century, followed by a large migration of *Litvaks* from the mid 1880s onward. To quote, “... *the nature of the book, ... is to tell the story of how Jews went from being immigrants, to South African Jews, to Jewish South Africans – a transition sometimes subtle, sometimes fraught with conflict.*” Both authors teach in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town.

¹ Others were: *A History of The Jews in South Africa from earliest times to 1895*, Louis Herrman. Victor Gollancz: London, 1930; *The Jews in South Africa*, Gus Saron and Louis Hotz (eds). Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, Cape Town, London, New York, 1955.

The publisher's concept was to produce a book that would be accessible to a broad group of readers apart from academics. This book can be easily read from cover to cover (unlike many other history books!) Although Jews in South Africa have always been a small part of the overall population, they played a large role in the development of the rural areas and also in the founding and growth of the major cities especially Johannesburg. The part played in the socio-economic, political, academic and cultural life of this country cannot be understated.

The book is divided into four chapters. The first is *Pioneers – Beginnings and into the Hinterland*. This commences with the first four Jews in the 1652 Dutch settlement at the Cape, who were forced to convert as only Protestants were permitted to settle. The first professing Jew was a surgeon, Siegfried Fraenkel, who came in 1807. The next period is described as "... depicting the fragility of the early foundations and the shifting fortunes of this infant community, the book traces its development to robust maturity amidst turbulent social and political currents". The founding of the first organised community in Cape Town in 1841 is noted, some of the participants were also active supporters of the local churches.

The second chapter is aptly titled *Litvaks* as the vast majority came from Lithuania, Latvia, or Belarus and discusses origins, migration, and settlement in South Africa.

Chapter three – *South African Jews*, is divided into two parts. The '*Jewish question*' and *beyond, 1930-1948*, where the community was subjected to the virulent anti-Semitism of the 1930s, and is followed by: *At home in Apartheid South Africa, 1948-1970*. This discusses the moral dilemmas of the apartheid era.

The final chapter – *Jewish South Africans* is divided into *Challenges and Responses, 1970-1990* and *Into the 'new South Africa'*. This discusses the role of the Jews in the subsequent transition towards a non-racial democracy and the contemporary community.

The book is attractively produced and is replete with historically important photographs, many previously unpublished. The sheer scope of Jewish life, religious, industrial and agricultural, cultural and sporting is illustrated.

One must note that this is not a genealogical work yet many personalities are included, often in windows on the side of a page. These include mining pioneer Barney Barnato, Helen Suzman the politician, Nobel Prize winners such as Sydney Brenner, Aaron Klug and Nadine Gordimer, Rabbi Cyril Harris, and approximately 300 others who made important contributions in their fields. There is an excellent bibliography (additional reading) and the book is well indexed. Note that it will probably not mention your own family!

This book has become a surprising best seller for a history book in South Africa; apparently several thousand have been sold in the past 6 months. *The Jews in South Africa* will interest all who want to know more than their own immediate history and to learn about this vibrant, creative and innovative pioneer community.

More information

Publisher: Jonathan Ball, Johannesburg and Cape Town (see www.jonathanball.co.za), ISBN 978-1-86842-281-4. 248pp.

THE OCHBERG ORPHANS

David Sandler

Editor's Note: *The September 2006 issue of this Newsletter had an article about a book titled 100 Years of Arc Memories, edited by David Sandler. The book is about the Arcadia Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg where David lived between 1956 and 1969 – from the age of 3 to the age of 17. Arcadia – known as the Arc to all its children, was started by the South African Jewish Orphanage (SAJO) and has cared for over three thousand children over the past 100 years.*

*David is now in the process of compiling a few more books – one being **More Arc Memories** which is complete and should be in print in early 2009, and another about the Ochberg Orphans, which he has just commenced. He sent this letter to the children of Ochberg Orphans inviting them to contribute their parents' stories for his book. If you know any children of Ochberg Orphans, please ensure that they have communicated with David. He can be contacted at sedsand@ca.com.au*

Dear Friends,

I am sending you this letter to give you a bit of my background and to seek your help in collecting the details of the Ochberg Orphans as seen through the eyes of their children.

I hope you are well and send you greetings from WA (Western Australia) where I live in Wanneroo, an outer suburb of Perth on a hectare bush block and a drive of 25 - 40 minutes into the city depending on the time of day. I'm a Chartered Accountant and I've worked in commerce and industry as a financial controller for various enterprises in Perth for the past 25 years and have now retired to compile books.

I grew up in *Arcadia* and was there from the age of 3 until the age of 17 - 1956-1969.

Over seven years part time I compiled the *Arcadia Centenary Book: 100 Years of Arc Memories* which was published in June 2006. I then spent two years on its sequel *More Arc Memories* which will hopefully be in print early 2009. The first book was financed and sold by ex-Arcadians and so far has raised about R260,000 for the Arcadia Jewish Children's Home that still exists in Sandringham

Johannesburg, looking after Jewish Children (see www.arcadia.ca.com.au). I propose to finance and sell the second book the same way.

The first book contained a chapter titled *The Ukraine Orphans* and the second volume on *Arcadia* also contains a section on the Ochberg Orphans. As you are most probably aware, of the 167 children who were brought to Cape Town in early September 1921, 78 were taken by train to Johannesburg on arrival in Cape Town. These children were placed in the care of the then South African Jewish Orphanage

Time and space did not permit me to complete the task of collecting information about the Ochberg Orphans for the second volume on *Arcadia* and they, like the children of *Arcadia*, are also a special part of South African Jewish history.

I am continuing to collect their memories through the eyes of their children and when I have collected enough of their memories will put them in a separate book which will be a fitting memorial. I invite the children of Ochberg Orphans to contact me at sedsand@ca.com.au with their parent's stories.



Passport photo of the Ochberg Orphans

SOUTH AFRICAN SMALL COUNTRY COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Volume 1 (reprinted)

Volume 1 of *Jewish Life in South African Country Communities*, published by *The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth* has now been reprinted. This volume covers the following regions: Northern Transvaal (now the Limpopo Province) and the Great Escarpment (now Mpumalanga) and includes these communities:

Barberton, Belfast, Brits, Bronkhorstspuit, Cullinan, Duiwelskloof, Dullstroom, Graskop, Gravelotte, Groblersdal, Hammanskraal, Hazyview, Hoedspruit, Komatipoort, Louis Trichardt, Lydenburg, Machadodorp, Marble Hall, Messina, Middelburg, Naboomspruit, Nelspruit, Nylstroom, Phalaborwa, Pietersburg, Pilgrim's Rest, Potgietersrus, Roedtan, Sabie, Settlers, Soekmeaar, Thabazimbi, Tzaneen, Warmbaths, Waterval-Boven, White River, Witbank.

If anyone is interested in acquiring a copy, they can contact *The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth* (see the Order Form on page 25 of this Newsletter for more details).

REVISITING MUIZENBERG



Hi there all Muizenbergers and friends of Muizenberg,

Are you aware that an exhibition is being planned for December 2009, entitled *Memories of Muizenberg*? This is a concerted effort to try and reach those of you who have not yet heard of our project.

The main focus of the exhibition will be large panels with photographs illustrating various phases in the history of old Muizenberg. In particular we are searching for pictures of either the old hotels or the proprietors, perhaps your grandparents or parents. We are interested too in the shops which were the mainstay of Muizenbergers. Needless to say, anything related to the Synagogue and your *Cheder* days, particularly if you have pictures would be wonderful to receive.

We would appreciate more news and pictures of the Girl Guides and the many Zionist and other groups which were formed there. We need more pictures of the Fêtes which the Women's Groups took so seriously raising funds for Israel. We need more programs and details of the active amateur theatre which led to the establishment of the Masque Theatre - what other suburb of Cape Town could boast of such thespian activities! So many people mention Normans, the Maccabi, the Hamburger Hut and the Pavilion Milky Bar and we are desperate for pictures of these.

We would love to hear from you, and if you can, please label the pictures carefully and provide dates where possible. We undertake to return all original material sent or brought to us in South Africa, and have members of our team in Cape Town and

Johannesburg who will collect these and ensure they reach us. Alternatively, should you chose to scan and send pictures or documents by email, please ensure that you use the best resolution the scanner has to offer so that the pictures we will print are of top quality. There is a postal address for those of you who prefer to post.

When you read this, please pass it on to everyone that you think of who might be interested to be part of this exhibition which promises to be a great happening. Don't regret afterwards that you did not take part in this gathering of memories!!

With best wishes,

The Muizenberg Team

Email: memoriesofmuiz@gmail.com

Phone: (011) 728-8378 Fax: (018) 468-5895

Postal address: P. O. Box 117, Klerksdorp 2570
South Africa



29th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Philadelphia
2-7 August 2009



Call for Papers

The Conference and Committee Chairs wish to remind everyone that the deadline for submissions of presentation proposals for the conference is January 15, 2009. All proposals must be submitted on-line at the conference website at:

www.philly2009.org

(click on the Call for Papers button)

More information is available on the website.

E-mail: programs@philly2009.org

BOOKS FOR SALE

Book 1

Jewish Migration to South Africa. The Records of the Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter, 1885 – 1914.

Edited by Aubrey N. Newman, Nicholas J. Evans, J. Graham Smith and Saul W. Issroff. Jewish Publications, South Africa 2007. 504 pp. ISBN 0-7992-2315-8

Cost for UK residents: £15

Cost if purchased from South Africa: R100

Book 2

Jewish Migration to South Africa

Passenger Lists from the UK 1890 to 1905, Volume 1. Edited by Saul Issroff.

Cost for UK residents: £10

Cost if purchased from South Africa: R100

Book 3

Passenger Lists from the UK 1906 to 1930, Volume 2. Edited by Saul Issroff.

Cost for UK residents: £10

Cost of volumes 1 and 2 for UK residents: £15

Cost if purchased from South Africa: R100

Book 4

The Jews of Johannesburg, until Union, 31 May 1910 (Yidn in Yohanesburg biz Yunyon, 31 May 1910) by Leibl Feldman. Translated by Veronica Belling.

Cost for UK residents: £10

Cost if purchased from South Africa: R100

Book 5

Jewish Life in South African Country Communities - Volume 2

Cost for UK residents: £25

Cost if purchased from South Africa: R365

Book 6

Jewish Life in South African Country Communities – Volume 3

Cost for UK residents: £25

Cost if purchased from South Africa: R350

ORDERS AND POSTAGE

All UK Orders

For cost of postage, delivery and payment details, contact Dr Saul Issroff at saul@issroff.com

Telephone: UK only +44 2077224181

Orders for Books 1 – 4 from outside of the UK

Contact Janine Blumberg at the Jewish Publications—South Africa, Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town.

E-mail: kapgen@humanities.uct.ac.za (Credit card facilities are available.)

Postage for books 1 – 4:

- Free if delivered anywhere in South Africa
- For other countries (airmail): USA R220, Israel R180, Canada R200
- For other countries (surface mail): USA R85, Israel R90, Canada R70

Orders for Books 5 and 6 from outside of the UK

See the *South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth* order form on page 25 of this Newsletter.

Note: If you wish to order Books 5 and 6 and you reside in the UK, Saul has copies but payment is to be made to the *South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth*

SURNAMES APPEARING IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, Issue 2 – December 2008

The numbers in brackets refer to the page numbers where the surname appears:

Adler (5), Abrahams (13), Balkin (7), Baleson (2), Barnato (15), Berman (13), Blatt (2), Block (13), Brenner (15), Butkowski (5), Church (3), Cohen (2 - 4), Cumberlege (14), Diamond (13), Einstein (13), Emdin (7), Epstein (2), Feldt (7), Fenster (7), Freinkel (13), Friedman (7, 13), Gefen (10), Getz (2), Ginsberg (7), Goldberg (2, 7), Goldstein (5), Gollancz (14), Gordimer (15), Green (13), Gurland (7), Harris (2, 6, 15), Hart (2, 19), Helfand (7 - 8), Herrman (14), Hertz (5), Hotz (14), Issroff (2, 14, 19), James (3), Jaffe (7), Johnstone (3), Jurblum (3), Kantor (7), Kassel (7), Kilov (13), Klug (15), Landau (7), Leibowitz (14), Lerer (2), Lev Zion (3), Levin (13), Levine (5), Linz (14), Lipschitz (7), Lipson (7), Lopato (7), Lowy (6), Manashewitz (7), Marwell (2), Mendelsohn (14), Meyer (7), Meyers (7), Meyerowitz (7), Milamdowitz (8), Narunsky (7), Ogus (2), Pinshaw (13), Plen (2), Rabinowitz (2), Rose (6), Rosenberg (7), Sandler (3, 15), Schacharro (8), Schur (13), Segall (2, 3), Shain (14), Shalovsky (7), Sharpe (3), Solin (8), Spiro (7), Sugarman (13), Wasilewsky (14), Wolff (13), Zetler (3, 10, 12).

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<http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/newsletter/>

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Subscription Manager: Mike Getz – *MikeGetz005@comcast.net*

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Please fill in your name, delivery address and other details and send it together with a US Dollar check/cheque payable to “SA SIG” and drawn on a USA bank account to:

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