

S. A. SIG

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Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The usefulness of the SA SIG came to light this week when I had a query from someone in Washington, D.C., relating to a family "M..." from Port Elizabeth. The enquirer did not know much more other than that her grandmother was related and at some stage in the 1950's the family had moved to Pretoria. With this limited information I contacted a few old friends from PE and within hours had traced the PE family to Perth, put them in contact with long lost relations and renewed contact with this family, who it turns out knew me in early childhood!!

We now have over 400 people on the SA-SIG discussion list, but very few people write their own queries or post interesting information. A lot seems to be accomplished outside the regular group. I am not sure of the reasons behind this.

Mike Getz has decided to be a little less active and will become 'emeritus' Vice-President of the SIG. In 1998 Mike had the initial idea for the group and has made huge contributions over the years, not the least in his other role as Treasurer. We hope he will continue as before. Roy Ogus will become Vice-President and he will continue to be the backbone of much of the excellent work that goes on behind the scenes. One tangible and visible result of his endeavours is the regular production and e-mailing of the Newsletter. Roy also has been the main speaker at annual conferences in relation to South Africa. We will jointly present at the forthcoming conference in New York, and in addition will be doing a computer workshop on researching Southern African Jewish Genealogy.

The other day an old friend came to see me for information about Lithuania. His wife died a few years ago and he decided to write about her and her origins for the grandchildren who never knew her. This led to the realisation that their lives were so intertwined that he was also writing about himself and his family. This started me thinking about why so few of us actually turn the material we have collected and assimilated into something of lasting value for future generations. Apart from paper records and family trees, we have memories and stories. Many of us are now the oldest in a family (or getting there fast!). Yes, it is difficult, takes time and becomes very personal. But it must be worthwhile to sort and record, not only the relevant

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

The Southern Africa Jewish Genealogy Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) was created 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 and the former Belgian Congo.

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

The SA-SIG Newsletter is published quarterly. Further information on how to subscribe to the Newsletter can be found at:

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

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facts but the insights, the failures, foibles and achievements of the past generations and of ourselves. To paraphrase: ‘... if you don’t do it now, then when!!!’

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for 2006. I took over as Editor from Beryl Baleson with the March 2004 issue and, as I enter my third year, I have been reflecting on the wonderful range of people I have had the privilege to come into contact with during this time. As we pursue information about the past, it is important that we don’t forget that future generations will be asking the same questions that we are asking today. Your stories and knowledge about your family and community will be important to future generations so keep writing and encourage other members of your family to do the same. As Beryl Baleson states in her article *South African Centre for Jewish Migration and Genealogy Studies*, it is important that the rich historical material and cultural heritage of our communities and towns is recorded for future generations.

The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth is in the process of researching the next 3 volumes for the *South African Country Communities Project* and would like your assistance with photographs and memoirs. For more information about how you can help, see page 23 for details.

The city of Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape, is the 4th biggest city in South Africa after Johannesburg, Durban, and Cape Town. PE as it is known, has had a Jewish congregation since 1862 and a *shul* since 1870. Like so many other places in South Africa, the Jewish population of PE has decreased resulting in the recent closure of the Glendinningvale *shul*. This *shul* was originally built to seat approximately 1300 people and now the congregation has decreased to about 400 of which 60% are over the age of 70 and a great many are over 80 years of age.

During the weekend of 18 – 20 November last year, the community paid tribute to this *shul* which served

them for 50 years. The *Cape Jewish Chronicle* provided a write-up of the occasion which I have included in this newsletter for you.

Soon after reading the article about the closure of Glendinningvale *shul*, I came across another reference to Port Elizabeth in the December 2005 issue of *Shemot*, the newsletter produced by the *Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain*. Doreen Berger, one of the founding members of that society, provided information about the early days of Port Elizabeth in the form of two letters she came across written to the *Jewish Chronicle* – a British Jewish Newspaper published in the 1800’s. The unnamed authors of these two letters were recent arrivals in Port Elizabeth and describe early life in the town including the lack of marriageable women and the establishment of the first Jewish community.

We have another meticulously researched article from one of our regular contributors, Adam Yamey, about German migration to South Africa during the 19th century.

I came across two websites recently which you may find interesting: The first can be found at:

<http://feefhs.org/PL/ORPHAN/orphant.html>

This is the text of a lecture given by Robert Weiss at a *Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) Convention* at Salt Lake City in 1997. The article lists the names of 500 Polish children who were sent to an orphanage in Oudtshoorn and remained there until the outbreak of WW11. Weiss wonders whether a number of these children were hidden Jewish orphans.

The second website:

<http://www.nextbook.org/cultural/feature.html?id=248>

is an interview with well-known author Lynn Freed about growing up Jewish in Durban during the sixties.

Eric Horwitz and his family have an extensive association with both Brakpan and nearby Benoni where they lived for many years. Eric’s father, William, born in Benoni in 1910 was an attorney who spent most of his life in Brakpan with his wife Phyllis Levitas and two children – Eric and Ada.

Eric and his wife – also Phyllis – made *aliyah* 5 years ago following their son Rael who made *aliyah* 7 years ago.

Eric sent me an article by Isaac Connack which was published in the *South African Jewish Times* in 1973 which records much of the early history of the Brakpan Jewish Community going back as far as 1917. In 1960 the congregation consisted of 220 members which diminished to 120 in 1973. Today they manage to get a *minyán* most weekends with a few people from Springs and a man from Boksburg making up the numbers.

Irwin Sagenkahn and his wife Sally who live in Forty Fort, Pennsylvania, have become well seasoned travelers in search of their roots. They have made 2 trips to Lithuania with Howard Margol who specialises in genealogical trips to Lithuania. The first trip was in 1993 when they visited Irwin's father's *shtetl* of Salant. The second trip – also with Howard Margol – was in 1996. Irwin found this trip most interesting as a cousin, who is a Holocaust survivor, Ina Sagenkahn Zigelman accompanied them where they visited places of her childhood. Irwin and Sally have also been to Riga in Latvia to visit family.

Irwin and Sally made their first trip to South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana in 1997 to visit family. One of the highlights of their trip was meeting up with the descendants of Benjamin Friedman who established the well known Somerset West Department Store *Friedman & Cohen* in 1906 which is still run by the family today three generations later. Irwin has put his memories of their trip into a book – extracts of which I have included for you.

Many thanks to all of you who have contributed items and articles for this issue of our newsletter which I am sure you will find interesting.

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OUT TO AFRICA

The Migration of German Jews to South Africa

Adam Yamey

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During the 19th century, most German Jews who wished to emigrate chose to go to the USA. A small number went to South Africa, which until the discovery of diamonds and gold in the 1870s, was regarded as a wild, unexplored land. The emigration of Jews from Bavarian Schwabia exemplifies this; between 1803 and 1914 only 1.4% chose to go to South Africa, almost all of the rest to the USA.¹

In the beginning of the 19th century, only the hinterlands of ports such as Cape Town and Port Elizabeth were exploited for their farming potential. Until the 1840s and the arrival of the Jews from Germany, much of the interior of the country was too remote from these locations to be viable as suppliers of produce. The German Jews who migrated to South Africa during the 19th century helped to develop an economic infrastructure in the country that facilitated trade between its hitherto neglected interior and its major centers, the ports that connected it with the outside world.

In a recent general survey² of German Jewish migration to South Africa Saul Issroff stresses the importance of “kinship-led” migration. During much of the 19th century, many of the German Jews went to South Africa following relatives who had already arrived and had sent home good reports about the country. This article describes links between such families (see Figure 1), specifically my mother's extended family that typified this *mischpocheh*³ influenced migration (see Figure 2).

Cape Town and Port Elizabeth

Until the end of the 18th century, very few Jews came to South Africa, and most of those who did settled in Cape Town, usually having converted to Christianity as required by the Dutch East India Company and previously the Portuguese.⁴ In 1823, two German Jews arrived in the Cape, Maximilian Thalwitzer (1795-late 1890s),⁵ and Gabriel Kilian.⁶

Their arrival preceded a significant influx of German Jews to South Africa. While Thalwitzer specialised in the production and export of wool (he introduced Merino sheep to the Cape), Kilian was more of a general merchant. Gabriel Kilian was a partner in a commercial firm in Frankfurt/Main and traded in Cape Town under the name of "Kilian & Stein."⁷ His cousin Jonas Bergtheil (1819-1901), who arrived from Germany in 1834, later pioneered the cotton growing industry in Natal.⁸

In 1837, Joseph Mosenthal (1813-1871) arrived from Kassel (Hesse) in Germany and joined the firm of his relative Gabriel Kilian as a clerk.⁹ Within a year, Joseph became a partner in the trading firm of Julius Flesch.¹⁰ In late 1841, after the death his son and also of Alexa Waldeck, the first of his four wives, Joseph returned to Kassel. Almost a year later he returned to South Africa with his brothers, Adolph (1812-1882) and Julius (1819-1880), and a cargo of goods. In November 1842 they landed at Algoa Bay and within days had opened their new business, Mosenthal & Brothers, in Port Elizabeth.¹¹ The Mosenthals had relatives in London, England and it is possible that this influenced them to migrate to the Cape, a newly acquired colony of the British. Soon they began to open branches all over the Cape Colony, including Cape Town. The impact of the Mosenthals' firm on the development of the economy of the deep interior of South Africa was substantial.¹² Nearly half of the Jews who came to South Africa in the period 1845-1870 came as a result of the Mosenthals' need for manpower in their various enterprises.¹³ They sought new associates in Germany amongst their relatives and friends, individual on whom they could depend for intelligence and reliability in business matters.¹⁴

Into the Interior

The Mosenthals required good communication to further their commercial activities. They petitioned the government for new road building.¹⁵ Within weeks of opening their business in Port Elizabeth in 1842, the Mosenthals opened a branch in Graaff Reinet, a town that was already an important settlement in the interior of the Cape Colony.¹⁶ In 1847 they moved further inland to open a branch in Burghersdorp.¹⁷

Graaff Reinet and Hanover

The first German Jew settling in Graaff Reinet was Isaac Baumann in 1836. He was born in Kassel, as were the Mosenthals.¹⁸ Although associated for a time with the Mosenthal business, he ultimately set off across the Orange River and settled in Bloemfontein where he became the first Jewish settler.¹⁹

The Graaff Reinet branch of Mosenthal Brothers was at first run by the family itself. In about 1852, Dr. Abraham Lilienfeld, a medical practitioner, arrived in the town followed by his brothers; one was Martin who took over the running of the local Mosenthal branch. The Lilienfelds came from Marburg (Hesse)²⁰ and were second cousins of the Mosenthal brothers.²¹ Three of the Lilienfeld brothers married daughters of the Mosenthals' sister, Johanna Gers.

Other German Jewish families that settled in the town as a result of the Mosenthals included the Hoffa, Hanau, Alsberg, Weinthal and Nathan families. Dr. Moritz Alsberg was a medical practitioner in Graaff Reinet. The Hoffa family was related by marriage to the Mosenthals.

In the 1850s, Edward Nathan (1825-1885), a Jew from Hamburg, opened another large store in Graaff Reinet. He came to South Africa in about 1850 and joined Mosenthal's in Port Elizabeth before setting up shop in Graaff Reinet. Like many other German-Jewish merchants in small towns, he took an interest in civic affairs. He was mayor of the town between 1862 and 1865. His daughters Johanna and Ellen were both talented musically and had important roles in the cultural life of the town.²² Ellen married Siegfried Ginsberg (1859-1947), a brother of Franz Ginsberg, an industrial pioneer in King Williams Town (see below).²³

Edward's brother, Karl Nathan (1838-1905), arrived in the Cape in 1856, and settled in Hanover, a town northeast of Graaff Reinet where, by the 1860s, he had his own store. His son Manfred Nathan was born in 1875 in Hanover. The latter became a senior judge in South Africa and also a prolific writer on aspects of South African law and history.²⁴

Burghersdorp and Middelburg

Between 1848 and 1850, the annually exported weight of wool, South Africa's most important

export in the 1840s and 50s, leapt significantly.²⁵ This coincided with the expansion in the activity of firms such as those of Thalwitzer and Mosenthal. After establishing themselves in Graaff Reinet the Mosenthals opened a branch in Burghersdorp in 1847, in the heart of sheep farming country. Their business partners in that town were Louis and Bernhard Goldmann, who had come from “eastern Germany.”²⁶ Breslau to be precise²⁷. Louis became a Justice of the Peace and later held consular posts on behalf of Turkey and Denmark²⁸. Louis Goldmann’s daughter Joanna married Harry Mosenthal. Bernhard married Caroline Sichel (who may have been related to Godfroy Sichel²⁹, a business partner of the Goldmann brothers in Burghersdorp³⁰): they had a number of children including Edwin who became a leading physician in Germany³¹, Charles who was important in mining in South Africa, and Dick who became a Member of Parliament in South Africa. Bernhard and his family returned to Germany in 1876³², where his children were educated.

News of Louis Goldmann’s success probably influenced his relative Isadore Friedlander to come to South Africa from Breslau in 1861. He established his own trading store in Middelburg, in the Cape Colony. All four of Isadore’s sons became lawyers in Cape Town, founders of the still extant firm of “C & A Friedlander”³³. One of Isadore’s grandsons, Richard Friedlander, was Mayor of Cape Town (1970-72).

Aliwal North and Smithfield

In 1849 the Mosenthal firm was asked to auction plots of land in the newly established town of Aliwal North, which lies on the Cape side of the Orange River. This river was the frontier between the Cape Colony and the Boer republic, the Orange Free State (now called the Free State). Joseph Mosenthal opened a store here that year, and brought in as a partner my relative Henry Bergmann from Dittenheim in Bavaria. I do not yet know how Henry Bergmann was “head-hunted” by the Mosenthals.

Henry Bergmann (1831-1866)³⁴ arrived in Cape Town in 1849.³⁵ By 1857, he and Julius Mosenthal were running the branch of Mosenthal’s in Aliwal North.³⁶ Until his sudden death,³⁷ Henry Bergmann also managed the local branch of a bank.³⁸ In 1855 Lazarus (Ludwig) Reichenberg (1835-1909) joined

Henry Bergmann in Aliwal North, having arrived from Ichenhausen, the town in Bavaria where Henry’s mother was born.³⁹ Soon they were in business together.⁴⁰

Henry and some of his colleagues in the Mosenthal firm, Julius Mosenthal and Louis Goldmann, held positions of civic importance in Aliwal North and beyond. Henry served on the town’s Divisional Council, on its Immigration Board and on other committees.⁴¹ Julius Mosenthal and Louis Goldmann were Justices of the Peace in Aliwal North.⁴²

Henry Bergmann was the first of his family to come to South Africa from Germany. In Henry’s wake followed many of his relatives, who all shared a common ancestor, Jakob Seligmann (1775-1842), a merchant in Ichenhausen, Bavaria.⁴³ Almost all of them settled in towns near Aliwal North, such as Rouxville and Smithfield in the Orange Free State. In fact, Henry’s brother Ludwig was already settled in Smithfield by 1854⁴⁴ where he had a shop⁴⁵. They also went to Lady Grey and Barkly East in the Cape Colony. Thus from a small region in Germany a group of migrants, related by blood and/or by marriage, settled in a small region of South Africa.

Rouxville and Bulawayo

Rouxville, across the river from Aliwal North, is in the Orange Free State. The town, established in 1863, became an important centre servicing the sheep and cattle farmers of the southeastern Orange Free State. Two men from Ichenhausen played roles in the administration of the town. One of these was Leopold Reichenberg (born 1848), brother of Lazarus who lived in Aliwal North. The other was Henry Bergmann’s first cousin Jakob Seligmann (1846-1900). Jakob and Leopold were members of the town council. Leopold was also the postmaster for Rouxville⁴⁶.

Leopold arrived in South Africa and in 1873 married Jacob’s first cousin Mathilde Rosenfels (Henry Bergmann’s niece, born in Dormitz). They married in Port Elizabeth⁴⁷ and as a result two families from Ichenhausen were joined in Rouxville. After a few years, Leopold Reichenberger retired to Germany.⁴⁸ In contrast Jakob Seligmann left South Africa under a cloud. Nathaniel Adler of Port Elizabeth, a brother-in-law of Julius Mosenthal, made Jakob Seligmann bankrupt in 1877, and Jakob

was arrested.⁴⁹ After escaping from the prison in Rouxville in 1878, he fled, with his wife and children, to the USA.⁵⁰

Three of Mathilde Reichenberg's brothers (see Figure 2) also came to Rouxville: Jakob (1855-1906), Julius (1859-1906), and Max (1862-1944). They all were in business in the town. Jakob Rosenfels was a speculator and played for high stakes. Julius Rosenfels had a trading store in Rouxville, which he closed in 1891 before returning to Germany. Jakob returned to Augsburg, in about 1893/4, where he became the Honorary Consul for the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.⁵¹

Max Rosenfels worked with his brothers in Rouxville until 1894. Then, persuaded by Thomas Meikle, an early European settler in Southern Rhodesia (now called Zimbabwe), he settled with his family in Bulawayo⁵². Many of his descendants still live in Zimbabwe, despite having been dispossessed of their farms by the regime of Robert Mugabe.

Lady Grey

Four years before Jakob Seligmann's escape from Rouxville, his younger brother Sigmund (1856-1939) came to the town and worked as an employee for a Mr. Wiarda. The pattern of Sigmund's career in South Africa parallels that of the Mosenthals.⁵³ After 3 years in Rouxville, he moved to Lady Grey where he joined the firm of a merchant Mr. Oelschig. While in Germany on a buying trip for Oelschig, Sigmund invited his first cousin once removed, Emanuel Rieser, to join him in Lady Grey. Sigmund left Oelschig's firm in 1883, wishing to start a business of his own.⁵⁴ Emanuel Rieser eventually became a director of Oelschig's.

Dordrecht and Barkly East

In 1883, Sigmund Seligmann opened his own general trading store in Dordrecht, southeast of Aliwal North. Moss Vallentine, a Jew from London, England, assisted him. The business was a success. In 1884, Sigmund opened another store, called S. Seligmann & Co., in Barkly East. Like many of the other German Jews in South Africa, he imported all kinds of manufactured goods from Europe. Sigmund imported mainly from Germany. S. Seligmann & Co. was, like the Mosenthal firms, not simply an importer and retailer. The company

bought wool and hides from the sheep farmers in the district, stored them and then sold them on to buyers from outside the area. Also the company lent money to the farmers when times were lean and recouped this when the farmers prospered.⁵⁵ The firm in Barkly East grew; new branches were opened in neighboring settlements.⁵⁶ In 1889, Sigmund Seligmann invited three of his nephews from Germany to help him run the business: Jakob Krämer,⁵⁷ Moritz Rosenberg and Julius Cornelius. Later, Sigmund returned to Germany (to Munich) and handed over the running of his businesses to the three nephews. From Germany, Sigmund arranged for another six of his nephews to go to Barkly East in order to operate his business.⁵⁸ Amongst these was Iwan Bloch (1886-1931).

Iwan Bloch, my mother's father, arrived in South Africa in 1903 and later became a managing director of S. Seligmann & Co.⁵⁹ He was involved in the civic affairs of Barkly East becoming the town's only Jewish Mayor. He was instrumental in bringing the railway to the town, an important achievement for a place cut off from the rest of the country by mountains. His role in the improvement of South Africa's communication system was in keeping with the principles of the Mosenthal brothers.

The advance of industry

The trading activities of firms run by the German-Jewish settlers, such as the Mosenthals and the Seligmans, connected the widely spread, isolated communities of South Africa and produced an economic infrastructure that brought them prosperity. The subsequent improvement in the means of distribution of goods in the country resulted in the formation of a significant potential market for factory produced goods, goods that were either scarcely available, or heretofore had to be homemade. A further boost in the economy of the country followed the exploitation, which began in 1870 of the newly discovered diamond field.

In addition to promoting trade, some of these firms developed indigenous industries during the first half of the 19th century. Most of these efforts exploited the products of their agricultural suppliers, mainly wool. Nevertheless, imported goods dominated the South African market until the late nineteenth / early twentieth century when the country began to become a significant industrial producer.

Hope Town

In 1854, the Mosenthals opened a store in Hope Town, on the Orange River, which by 1861 was owned by Martin and Gustav Lilienfeld of Graaff Reinet⁶⁰. In late 1866, the first diamond ever to be discovered in South Africa was brought into the store and shown to Gustav. This and other diamonds were sold with the help of the Mosenthals who soon became involved in diamond dealing. The Lilienfeld store, managed by Leopold Lilienfeld from before 1869⁶¹, became a stopping place for diamond speculators setting off to stake their claims. In late 1869, Leopold was one of the purchasers of the farm of Bultfontein⁶², near to Dutoitspan. This soon became the site of one of the largest diamond mines in what was to become the town of Kimberley. The family founded a firm that handled the allocation of land for digging, the Hope Town Diamond Company.⁶³ The Mosenthals soon bought this company and diamond dealing became the concern of Adolph's son Harry Mosenthal (1850-1931).

Harry Mosenthal was a school friend of Julius Wernher (a Prussian gentile) who had been sent to South Africa by Jules Porges of Paris, one of the world's major diamond dealers. Wernher was in partnership with Alfred Beit, a Jew from Hamburg.⁶⁴ They represented Porges in South Africa.⁶⁵ When Cecil Rhodes was trying to amalgamate the various diamond companies in South Africa, Harry Mosenthal was able to help him. He acted as a bridge between the Anglo-Saxon world and the cosmopolitan world of London East End Jews (such as Barnato) and Germans including Werner and Beit, a world with which Rhodes was not familiar⁶⁶. Harry became a director in the De Beers Diamond Company in 1885.⁶⁷

Ceres

The discovery of diamonds led to migration of many people, both African and European, northwards to the diamond fields.⁶⁸ Transport to the diamond fields was facilitated by Adolf Arnholz (about 1841-1923), a Pomeranian Jew from Polzin who had a store in Ceres, in the Cape Colony. He founded the Inland Transport Company, the first regular passenger service to carry people to the diamond fields.⁶⁹ Adolph's brother Bernhard (1836-1908) was the first Justice of the Peace for Ceres and later its mayor.⁷⁰ The brothers' first cousin Michaelis Arnholz (1846-1921) had a store in

Rouxville. Michaelis married my mother's maternal grand-aunt Paula Rieser.

King Williams Town

It was soldiers rather than diamonds that brought my mother's maternal grandfather Franz Ginsberg (1862-1936), one of South Africa's earliest industrial pioneers, out from Beuthen (Upper Silesia) to King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape. Franz was one of the 13 children of Dr. Nathan Ginsberg (1814-1890), a scholar while at the university in Breslau.⁷¹ Nathan, with the foresight to see "the writing on the wall" for German Jews, encouraged his children to emigrate, which many of them did, mostly to South Africa. They may have chosen to go to South Africa hearing of the success of Isadore Friedlander from Beuthen (see above).

In 1880, Franz left Germany to join his brother-in-law Jakob Rindl (1853-1937)⁷² in King Williams Town, where they ran a photography studio.⁷³ Their customers were mostly the members of the German speaking British German Legion and their families who had been encouraged by the British to settle in the area around the town in the 1860s⁷⁴. In 1885, Franz Ginsberg began a factory to produce matches, at that time an expensive commodity in South Africa. In 1886, Ginsberg began a soap-making factory⁷⁵ and two years later he opened a candle factory. In a short time Ginsberg was locally producing on an industrial scale a range of previously imported essential domestic products. In 1908, Franz Ginsberg became involved in the diamond mining at Lüderitz Bay in German Southwest Africa (now Namibia) where he became a director of the Kolmanskop Diamond Company⁷⁶. In addition to his pioneering industrial activities, Franz Ginsberg was involved in politics. He was mayor of King Williams Town from 1904-7 as well as being a member of the Cape Parliament⁷⁷. In 1927, he was made a member of the Union Senate.

Franz Ginsberg met his future wife in Rouxville at the home of the merchant Michaelis Arnholz (see above). Arnholz was married to Paula, née Rieser, a descendant of Jakob Seligmann of Ichenhausen. Paula's unmarried sister Hedwig had left Germany to stay with the Arnholz family in Rouxville, possibly in search of a husband.⁷⁸ Franz Ginsberg and Hedwig became engaged and were married in Rouxville in April 1888.⁷⁹ This marriage linked two of South Africa's commercial families, Seligmann⁸⁰

and Ginsberg, a marriage between merchant and manufacturer. Franz and Hedwig Ginsberg had three children: Rudolph who inherited the family business (he was mayor of King Williams Town from 1943 to 1951), Ilse, who was my maternal grandmother, and Margarethe who married Alfred Friedlander, son of Isadore in Middelburg.

Many of Franz Ginsberg's relatives made their homes in King Williams Town. Franz's sister Ida married Siegfried Salomon from Hannover, Germany. Siegfried had a steam mill in King Williams Town and became the town's mayor in 1912.⁸¹ Franz's youngest brother Oscar helped run Franz's business, and became a managing director. In 1903, he married his niece Anna Ginsberg. As such close marriages were not at that time permitted in South Africa, the couple had to cross the border to Portuguese Laurenço Marques to get married.⁸² Anna and her sister Else ran a photography studio in King Williams Town, the first in South Africa to be owned and run by women.⁸³

Swakopmund

One of Franz's brothers Gustav (1872 - 1922) qualified as a dentist in Germany and in about 1901 came to Cape Town. Subsequently he moved to Swakopmund in German South West Africa, where he practiced his profession. He used to travel out into the "bush" to treat miners, many of whom paid his fees in diamonds and gold dust. By 1912, he was wealthy enough to return to Germany. After the end of WW1 he and his family returned to South Africa.⁸⁴ Gustav had two sons, both of whom assumed stage names, Eric Egan, a well-known broadcaster in South Africa in the 1960s, and the pianist Felix De Cola who was known as Cape Town's "King of Jazz".

The First World War: from retirement to internment

Some Jews of German origin retired and returned to Germany from South Africa after they accumulated enough wealth. Until the outbreak of the First World War the "fatherland" was an attractive destination for those who had succeeded in South Africa. Many had become British Subjects while in Africa. With the commencement of hostilities with Britain in 1914 they became, by default, enemy aliens in Germany. Most of these men, Jewish and otherwise, were placed in internment camps during

the war. Emanuel Rieser was interned in a camp in Bavaria. Both Gustav Ginsberg⁸⁵ and Karl Seligmann (1878-1934)⁸⁶ (of Ichenhausen, a cousin of Iwan Bloch, and a former director of S. Seligmann & Co. in Barkly East) were interned at Ruhleben⁸⁷ near Berlin. When the War was over there was disorder in Germany, followed rapidly by economic decline. Karl Seligmann⁸⁸ and Gustav Ginsberg and his family returned to South Africa.

Onslaught of National Socialism: A refuge in the south

Under Hitler's regime, emigration from Germany became an important consideration for many Jews. During the years 1933 to 1936, 3,615 German Jews entered South Africa, of which 70.5% arrived in 1936.⁸⁹ In 1937, under pressure from the Nationalist Party and related anti-Semitic groups in South Africa, the Government passed the Aliens Act⁹⁰, which made it much more difficult for Jews from Germany to come to the country. Between 1937 and 1940 inclusively, 1,845 German Jews were admitted, 54.5% of whom arrived in 1939⁹¹. Having family already in South Africa was helpful to those trying to escape from Germany; they found work and homes for the new arrivals and finance to get the family out of Germany. My mother's second cousin Heinrich Seligmann (1905-1997) left Noerdlingen in the 1930s and went to Barkly East. Later, Heinrich went to Johannesburg where he became the first importer of televisions to South Africa.

Another cousin of my mother, a Rieser relative who must remain anonymous, was welcomed in King Williams Town as a refugee from Germany in the 1930s. He joined the Ginsberg Company, eventually becoming one of its directors. Four decades later his son, wishing to leave the oppressive atmosphere of South Africa's Apartheid regime to live in Europe obtained a German passport, as he was entitled being the child of someone who left Germany during the Nazi era. When traveling in Italy, his passport was stolen. At the local German Consulate this son of a refugee was required to complete a form in German, a language he did not know. When asked by the consular official how someone with a German passport was unable to speak German, this cousin of mine answered, "Think about it. Look to your history!"

The Second World War, and afterwards

During the Second World War more than 10% of the Jews in South Africa (i.e. more than 10,000 people) fought for the Allies in South African military and defense units.⁹² I do not know what percentage of these was of German origin. Two of my mother's cousins, Leonard Bloch and Cecil Friedlander, were among the 357 Jewish soldiers killed during the War.

Since the end of the 19th century, Jews of German origin became an ever smaller proportion of South African Jewry, the majority of which became descendants of families that had lived in Lithuania. Between its zenith in 1970 and a most recent estimate of 2001, South Africa's Jewish population dropped from 118,200 to about 85,000,⁹³ and it continues to drop. Despite the fact that Jews were prominent amongst the "white" anti-apartheid activists, there has been, since the end of Apartheid, a net emigration of Jews from South Africa mainly because of worries about their status and security.

Conclusions

The decision to migrate from Germany in the 19th century was, for many Jews, a result of domestic pressures, both economic and political including special restrictions imposed on Jews. The decision making process for selecting a new place to live was less than obvious. Some chose other European countries such as France and Great Britain; many chose to leave Europe altogether. Most went to the USA, but a few adventurous souls chose the relatively uncharted destination of South Africa. Once there, despite physical hardships, many prospered and news of this led to the arrival of other family members. Their labor and industry in South Africa contributed in no little way to the subsequent development of the country, economically and in many other ways. The 19th century German-Jewish settlers helped to develop the infrastructure of South Africa so that by the end of the century it began to rival the USA as a destination for Jewish migrants.

NOTES

¹ Of the rest 0.3 % went to South America. See page 109 of *Aufbuch in die Ferne* by W. Knabe, published by Westkreuz-Verlag, Berlin/Bonn, 1992.

² See for example the encyclopedic article by S. Issroff in *Avotaynu*, Vol. XX no. 3, 2004.

- ³ Transliteration according to *The Joys of Yiddish*, by L. Rosten, published by Pocket Books, New York, 1970.
- ⁴ For a comprehensive survey of Jewish presence in South Africa before 1800, see *A History of the Jews in South Africa* by Louis Herrmann, published by South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg, 1935.
- ⁵ Herrman (page 102) states that Maximilian Thalwitzer was a Jewish emigrant from Germany to the Cape, arriving in 1823. Diane Glancy who is a descendant of a Maximilian Thalwitzer has records showing that her ancestor was born and *baptised* in Wittenberg, Saxony in 1798. Pierre Morgenrood (see his message dated 21 April 2004 on the Thalwitzer Message Board of www.ancestry.com) writes that Thalwitzer was not only a contributor of funds to Cape Town's Garden Synagogue, but also a member of the Dutch Reformed Church. Even if he was not strictly Jewish, he was certainly a sympathiser.
- ⁶ See Herrmann, p.102.
- ⁷ In 1842 Kilian & Stein applied to their agents in Germany to find a *Sefer Torah* to import to Cape Town. The importing of this, the first in the Cape, was delayed for six years since permission had first to be granted by the Chief Rabbi in London (See Herrmann, page 118).
- ⁸ For more details about Bergtheil, see Herrmann pages 103-4.
- ⁹ See pages 349-52 in *The Jews in South Africa*, edited by G. Saron & L. Hotz, published by Oxford University Press, Cape Town, 1955.
- ¹⁰ See Herrmann, page 211 and *Merchant Pioneers* by D. Fleischer & A. Caccia, published by Jonathan Ball, Johannesburg, 1983, page 18.
- ¹¹ *Ibid.*, page 61.
- ¹² See Saron & Hotz, page 350.
- ¹³ See Herrmann, page 216.
- ¹⁴ See Fleischer & Caccia, page 82.
- ¹⁵ In 1848, for example, Joseph Mosenthal petitioned the Government to build a road from Burghersdorp to the port of East London, a road that would connect the interior of the Cape Colony to the coast, avoiding mountain passes such as existed on the already extant road that connected the interior to Port Elizabeth. The road was built in 1850 (*Ibid.*, pages 79 and 84).
- ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, page 61.
- ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, page 78.n
- ¹⁸ See page 205 in *The Lost Republic* by G. Baumann & E. Bright, published by Faber & Faber, London, 1940.
- ¹⁹ See *The Jewish Community of Graaff Reinet*, published by South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth, South Africa, about 1999, page 18.
- ²⁰ Information from Gunther Steinberg.

- ²¹ Fleischer & Caccia., page 331.
- ²² Information about the Nathans from *The Jewish Community of Graaff Reinet* (see endnote 18).
- ²³ May, a daughter of Ellen and Siegfried Ginsberg, married Arthur Oppenheimer (1883-1966) who was born near Darmstadt. He worked in a bank in Hamburg until 1902 when he decided to enlist and fight with the Boers' against the British in South Africa (Germany was very pro-Boer and anti-British at that time). He arrived just after the Anglo-Boer war had ended and remained in South Africa where he had businesses dealing in snuff and barbed wire: Arthur's daughter married Kurt Gundelfinger. He was a nephew of Isaac Gundelfinger who migrated from Ichenhausen, Bavaria to South Africa, where he started a firm in Beaufort West. (Information from Robert Siaens and Johnny Gajland).
- ²⁴ Manfred Nathan's autobiography is very informative and highly readable, see *Not Heaven Itself* by M. Nathan, published by Knox Publishing Co., Durban, 1946.
- ²⁵ See page 77 of the 1852 volume of *Cape of Good Hope Almanac*, published by J. Noble and Van de Sandt, Cape Town.
- ²⁶ See page 4 of *A South African Remembers* by R. Goldmann, published by Cape Times, Cape Town, 1947.
- ²⁷ Information from Death Certificate of Bernhard Goldmann.
- ²⁸ See National Archives of South Africa (NASA): KAB/GH/1/297/00/89/1, 1863.
- ²⁹ Godfroy Sichel, studied chemistry at the Sorbonne in Paris, was a lawyer and also an accomplished musician. He retired to Cape Town and became a Member of the Cape Parliament (See Goldmann, page 6).
- ³⁰ See *Burghersdorp Gazette and Aliwal North Advertiser*, Vol. 1, no. 23, August 11, 1860. A copy of this was sent to me by Harold Hodes.
- ³¹ See article about Edwin in <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com>.
- ³² See Goldmann, page 15.
- ³³ See: <http://www.cafriedlander.co.za/about.html>.
- ³⁴ Dates from Death Notice in National Archives of South Africa (NASA), KAB/MOOC/6/9/116/f.2796, 1866.
- ³⁵ Letter from Bergmann in Cape Town to his parents, dated 8th August 1849 (kindly copied for me by my cousin Fea Bradley).
- ³⁶ The 1857 volume of *Cape of Good Hope Almanac* states in the entry for Aliwal North, "Messrs. Mosenthal, Bergmann and Co. have also a very extensive business establishment."
- ³⁷ See my article "Henry Bergamnn and Aliwal North: A Tragic Tale" in *Stammbaum*, Summer 2004 Issue.
- ³⁸ The Mosenthals were involved in banking and even issued their own banknotes. One of these bank-notes is reproduced as an illustration facing page 364 of Saron & Hotz.
- ³⁹ Date supplied by Ernest Kallmann.
- ⁴⁰ See: NASA: KAB CSC 2/2/1/140, f. 24, 1861.
- ⁴¹ See various references in *Cape of Good Hope Almanac* between 1858 and 1862.
- ⁴² See volumes 1857-1862 of *Cape of Good Hope Almanac*.
- ⁴³ As did my mother!
- ⁴⁴ Ludwig, who was certainly in Smithfield by 1854, may also have been in Aliwal North and was, like his brother, associated with the Mosenthals (see Fleischer & Caccia, page 116). The will of Henry Bergmann, which was drawn up in Frankfurt/Main in 1860 shortly before his marriage to Charlotte Schuster, contains numerous references to Henry's brother Ludwig in Smithfield. (See: NASA KAB MOOC 7/1/286/98, 1866.)
- ⁴⁵ See page 347 in *Die Geskiedenis van Smithfield en die Kaledoriviersdistrik (1819-1952)*, by A. Prinsloo, published by N. G. Sendingpers, Bloemfontein, 1955. Information from this rare book was kindly sent to me by Simon du Plooy of Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- ⁴⁶ See *Eeufees Gedenkboek van die Suidoostelike Vrystaat* by Prof. Dr. C. J. Uys. [publishing details not known].
- ⁴⁷ Information from a copy of the handwritten marriage certificate sent to me by Harold Hodes, a descendant of the Reichenberg family.
- ⁴⁸ Leopold retired to Germany by 1881. Information from Ernest Kallmann.
- ⁴⁹ N. Adler had worked for the firm of Adolph Mosenthal & Co. before starting his own business, N. Adler & Co. In 1866, Adolph's brother Julius became a partner in Adler's firm (see Fleischer & Caccia, page 182).
- ⁵⁰ See my article in the South African genealogical journal *Familia* (March 2005).
- ⁵¹ Information from unpublished history of the Bergmann family written by a descendant, Robert Larkindale.
- ⁵² Information on Max Rosenfels from a descendant still living in Zimbabwe. Thomas Meikle was one of the first importers in Rhodesia and today there are still department stores whose origin can be traced to him (see: http://faculty.fuqua.duke.edu/~charvey/Teaching/BA491_2000/MAL/Mal.doc) and http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/aug23_2001.html
- ⁵³ I am indebted to Fea Bradley for much of my information about her grandfather Sigmund Seligmann.

54 Emanuel Rieser eventually became a director of
Oelschig's.
55 Information about the activities of S. Seligmann &
Co. came from my late (maternal) uncle Felix Bloch.
56 There were branches of the firm in Rhodes,
Moshesh's Ford and Belmont.
57 Jakob Krämer's brother Julius was the last chairman
of Ichenhausen's religious community, as well as
representing the SPD political party on the town's
council. See *Village Jews*, published by Bayrisches
Staatskanzlei, Munich, 1992.
58 Information on the history of S. Seligmann & Co.
was kindly supplied by Sigmund's granddaughter
Fea Bradley.
59 For a biography of Iwan Bloch, who was brought up
in Gailingen (Baden, Germany), see my article in
Southern African Jewish Genealogy Special Interest
Group Newsletter, Vol.5, issue 1, Sept. 2004.
60 See Fleischer & Caccia, pages 213-214, and
"Diamond Fever" by M. Robertson, publ. by Oxford
University Press: Cape Town, 1974, page 180.
61 Leopold was a brother of Martin and Gustav
(genealogical information from Gunther Steinberg),
see also Robertson, page 178.
62 See Robertson, pages 227-229.
63 *Ibid*, pages 216-7.
64 Alfred Beit (1853-1906) arrived in South Africa in
1875 and was involved in both diamonds and in gold
(See Saron & Hotz, page 112, and also article by
Issroff, mentioned in endnote 2).
65 See pages 164-165 in *Rhodes, The Race for Africa*
by A. Thomas, published by BBC Books, London,
1997.
66 See Fleischer & Caccia, pages 220-222.
67 Saron & Hotz, page 114.
68 See for example pages 141-144 in *South Africa* by F.
Troup, published by Penguin Books Ltd.,
Harmondsworth, UK, 1975.
69 See Saron & Hotz, page 107.
70 *Ibid*, page 14.
71 He was offered a professorship in Heidelberg on the
condition that he renounce his Judaism and become
Christian. He did not wish to compromise his beliefs
for his career. Instead he became the founding
director of the Jewish Primary School in Beuthen
(see *Jüdisches Gemeindeblatt für Beuthen, Gleiwitz
und Hindenburg*, number 19, 31 Dec. 1936, pp. 2-3.)
72 Jakob Rindl was from Moravia and married Franz's
sister Lina (1854-1929). Their son Max Rindl (1883-
1947) was the first professor of chemistry at the
University of the Orange Free State.
73 He and Jakob Rindl experimented with color
photography and achieved some degree of success
(see *South African Jewish Times*, Rosh Hashanah
edition, September 1947). Ginsberg was not alone
in this kind of experimentation during this period; in

1895 the French scientist Gabriel Lippmann
discovered color photography and was awarded a
Nobel Prize for this in 1909 (see page 434 of
Quantum Generations, by H. Kragh, published by
Universities Press (India), Hyderabad, 2001.
74 See, for example: "The Letters and Journal of
Gustav Steinbart", ed. by JF Schwär and R. W.
Jardine, publ. by University of Port Elizabeth: Port
Elizabeth, 1975, Vol. 1.
75 At the same time, another German Jew, Jacques
Schlesinger opened a soap factory in Delmore in the
Transvaal.
76 I have copies of the Articles of Association of the
"Kolmanskop Diamond Company Ltd." and various
certificates dated late 1908 authorizing Franz
Ginsberg to import diamonds into King Williams
Town.
77 Information from Stephanie Victor of the Amathole
Museum in King Williams Town.
78 Both Paula and her sister Hedwig had been sent out
to Rouxville as single women, and both were
married soon after their arrival. It is possible that
their brother Emanuel, who had arrived in South
Africa before them, may have helped to arrange
these marriages.
79 Dates from diary kept by Hedwig's mother and also
from a marriage certificate. The minister who
celebrated their wedding, Samuel Rapaport, was the
same person who performed the marriage service for
Leopold Reichenberg and Mathilde Rosenfels.
80 By the time that the widowed Ilse Bloch died in
1948, the firm of S. Seligmann & Co. was being
managed largely by the Ginsberg family.
81 Information from Pat Frykberg.
82 Information from the late Wendy Wayburne, Anna's
grand niece.
83 Information from Stephanie Victor.
84 Information about Gustav's life from Lee De Cola,
one of his grandsons.
85 See note 73.
86 See NASA: SAB GG/708/9/133/155, 1918
87 See *The Rühleben Prison Camp* by Israel Cohen,
published by Methuen & Co., London, 1917.
88 See NASA: KAB MOOC 6/9/4425/41366, 1934.
89 Figures taken from Saron & Hotz, page 377.
90 See page 146 in *The Roots of Antisemitism in South
Africa* by M. Shain, published by University Press of
Virginia, Charlottesville, 1994.
91 Figures taken from Saron & Hotz, page 380.
92 See Saron & Hotz, page 376.
93 Figures from *Looking Back*, compiled by M. Shain
et al., published by Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre
for Jewish Studies and Research, Cape Town, 2001.

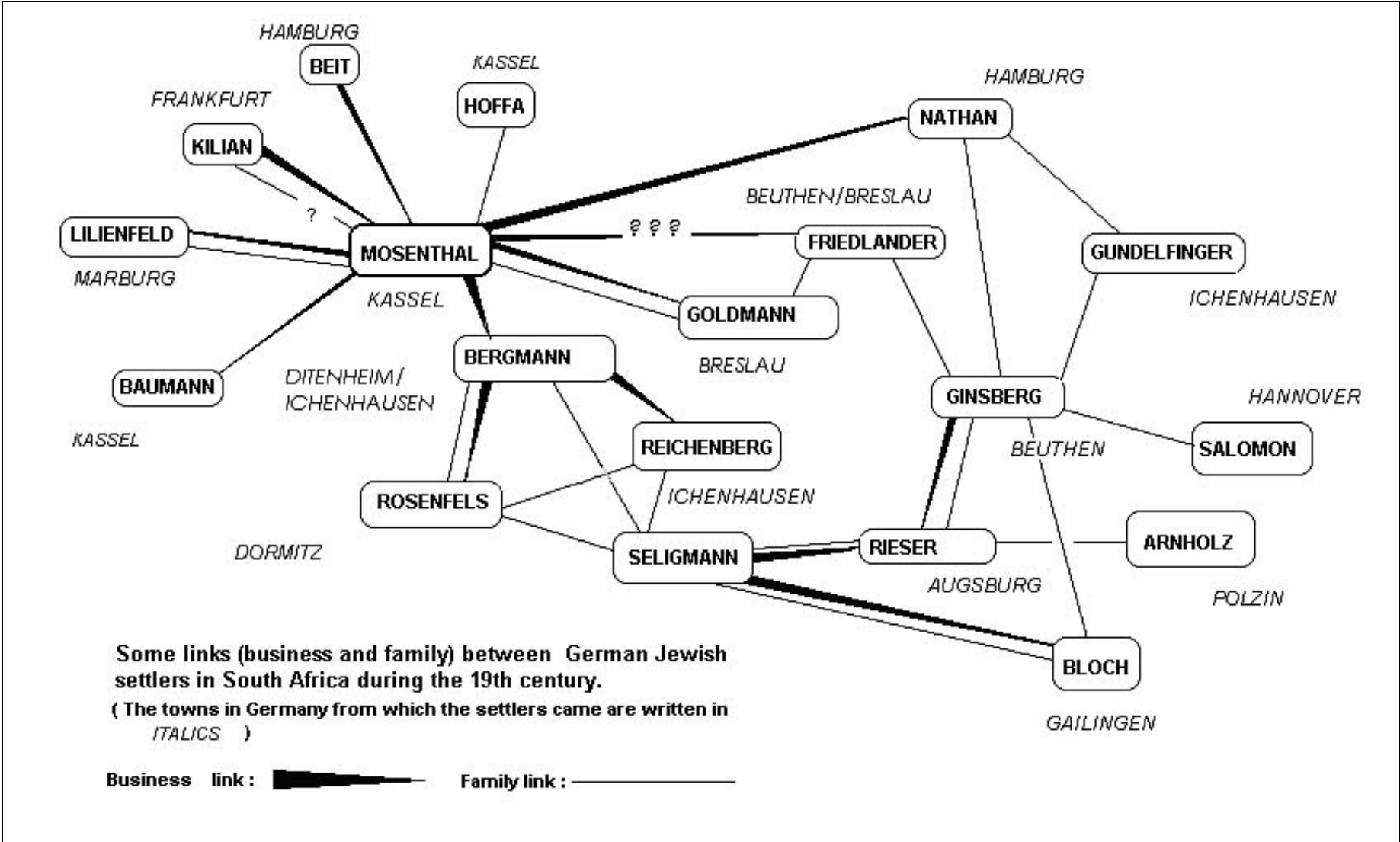


Figure 1

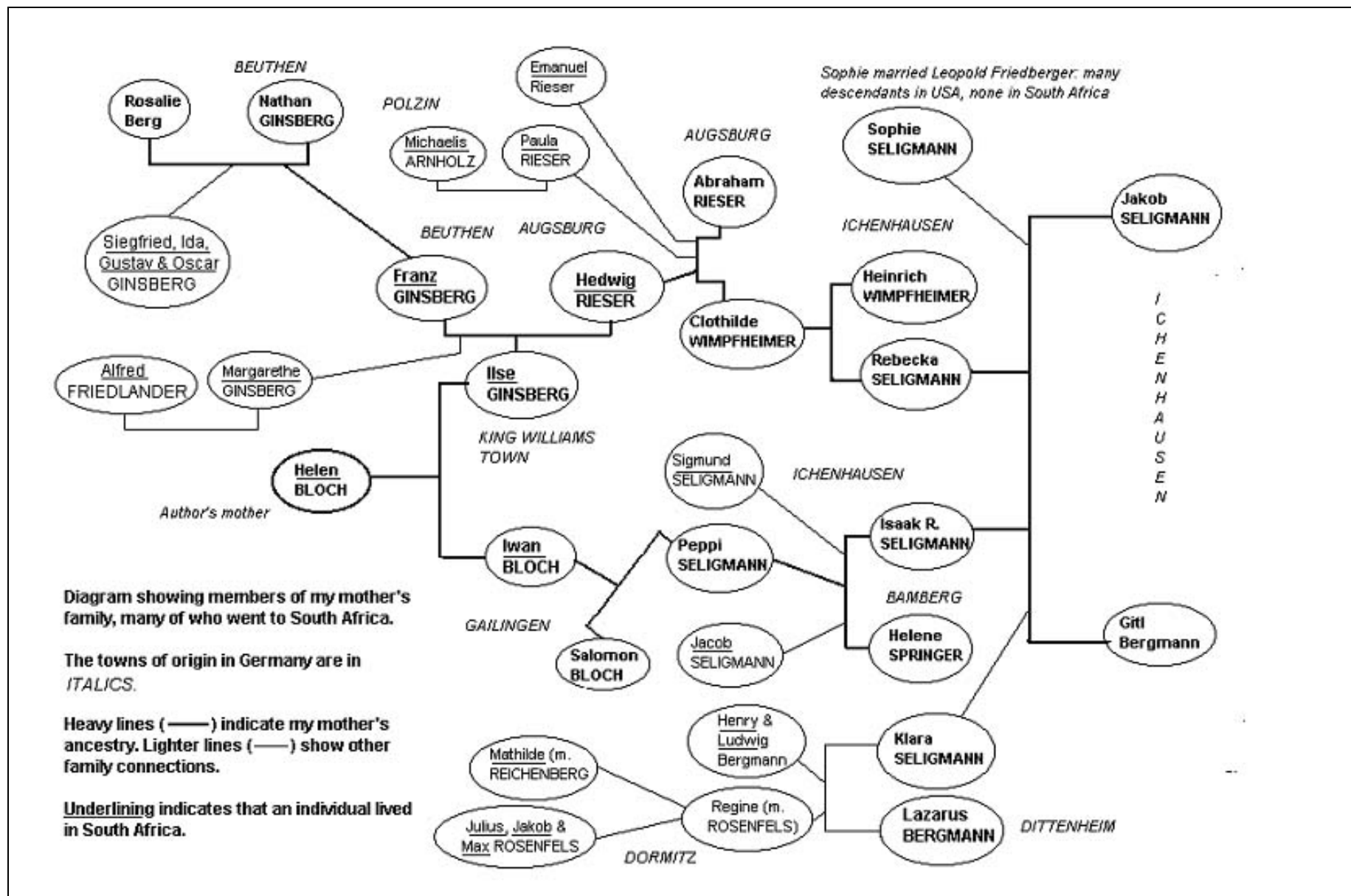


Figure 2

SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE FOR JEWISH MIGRATION AND GENEALOGY STUDIES

**Lecture given at IGS Seminar,
Tel Aviv – 28 November 2005**

Beryl Baleson

After attending the London 2001 Jewish Genealogy Conference, Cape Town businessman, Mr. Mendel Kaplan, who at one time also served as Chairman of the Jewish Agency in Israel, initiated a Centre primarily to research the estimated 15,000 core families who migrated to Southern Africa between 1850 and 1950 mainly from England, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus.

The Centre for Migration and Genealogy Studies was therefore opened and is managed under the umbrella of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town. This Centre is solely an academic research institute and is the first one in the world to study Jewish migration and genealogy on a graduate level.

The development of large passenger ships during the 1800's freed the way for migration from Eastern Europe. Initially this emigration was to England and America but a large scale emigration from Kovno and northwestern Lithuania to South Africa peaked in 1896. It tailed off after October 1898 when the Anglo-Boer War of 1898 to 1902 started. In fact a number of Litvaks returned to Lithuania during the war but migration peaked again in 1903 and 1904 after the war ended. This resulted in what was virtually a transplantation of a large section of the Jewish population from northwestern Lithuania to South Africa. The result is that today descendants of most Litvaks, no matter where they live, can trace links to South African families.

Therefore the aim of this project is to have a comprehensive database of records and information which maps the history of Jewish migration to South Africa. It provides data including births, marriages, deaths, cemeteries, communities, congregations, military records, passenger arrivals, naturalisations, the general South African community as well as to the present time – the South Africa to Israel *aliyah*.

In broad terms the research focuses on locations from where the families originated, patterns of

migration to South Africa, where families first settled, communities they established, growth of families and subsequent movements within the country and later emigration of the many families abroad.

A wide array of documents have been researched by the Kaplan Institute – material having been obtained from the South African Jewish Museum, the South African Board of Deputies, the South African Jewish Country Communities Project, Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth in South Africa, as well as the National Archives of South Africa.

Students and researchers are employed for data entry and research with responsibilities to liaise with the above organizations, as well as the *Chevra Kadisha* for burial data, and the *Beth Din* and the Chief Rabbi's office for marriage and other data.

As work is being completed, it is placed on the South African Jewish Rootsbank website, which can be found at:

http://chrysalis.its.uct.ac.za/CGI/CGI_ROOTWEB.EXE

South African Jewry was extremely Zionistically inclined with the result that the majority of the younger generation were involved in Zionist Youth Movements resulting in a large *aliyah* to Israel. In later years, because of political instability in South Africa, many young Jewish citizens emigrated to various countries, for example Australia, New Zealand, Canada, England, and the United States of America. This migration is also being covered by *The Centre for Migration and Genealogy Studies*. This data is also incomplete and as it is received is placed on the website. At the present time South Africans living in Israel, which includes names of volunteers in Machal, the 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 *Mitzva Kadesh*, and the 1967 Six Day War have been registered.

With the departure of so many Jewish South Africans to other places in the world, it is important that the history and cultural heritage of the communities and towns they lived in is documented. Many of the people who have left South Africa want to integrate into their new environments which could result in future generations knowing nothing about Jewish South Africa if it is not recorded. For many others their connections to their birthplace in South Africa has already been severed by the

passing of their elderly relatives. If, for this reason alone, the South African Centre for Migration and Genealogy is an important and crucial project.

CLOSURE FOR PORT ELIZABETH'S GLENDINNINGVALE SHUL AFTER 50 YEARS OF 'SERVICE' TO THE COMMUNITY

This article was originally published in the Cape Jewish Chronicle in December/January 2005/6, and is reprinted here with permission.

The Glendinningvale *Shul* in Port Elizabeth last month closed its doors for official services, but, according to all reports, it went out in great style.

In a weekend of activities from Friday 18 to Sunday 20 November, tribute was paid to this wonderful place of worship, which has served the community for the past 50 years. It was a sometimes sad, sometimes happy, always nostalgic weekend, which proved that despite the downsizing, the Port Elizabeth community is still on a high, and positive about its future.

Friday night services were held in the 'Big *Shul*' and were extremely well attended. This was followed by a communal supper enjoyed also by a number of ex-PE people, who had come down for the weekend activities. During the evening they were asked to stand up and introduce themselves, and to give a short resumé of who they were, where they came from, what they were doing now – a joyous renewing of acquaintance with these past community members, each of whom had a little bit of a story to tell about their association with the *Shul*.

Thereafter, Dr Denzil Levy, the architect of the Glendinningvale *Shul* and son of the late and much-loved Reverend Abraham Levy, gave an interesting talk on the history of the PE community up until its unification, when the *Shul* was built in 1955.

At the Shabbat morning service the congregation were happy to have Mick Davis, who had come from London specially to share the weekend and to say the *maftir*. He brought with him Michael Bagraim, chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, who gave a short address during the *kiddush brocha* after the service, which was attended by about 100 people.

And then on to the grand finale – the concert! *The Night of the Stars – The Joy of Jewish Music* – took place before a capacity crowd of about 500 people, both Jews and non-Jews.

‘Imported’ from Cape Town, the programme was devised by Cantor Ivor Joffe of the Green and Sea Point Congregation, who was supported by operatic diva Beverley Chiat and Cantor Ian Camissar of the Gardens Synagogue. Their renditions of Jewish melodies in Yiddish, Hebrew and English were accompanied by the Simcha Klezmar Band, under the musical directorship of Matthew Reid. Their beautiful voices soared up to the heights of the *Shul* and into the hearts of an ecstatic audience, who, after the last note had sounded, gave them an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Reporting on this wonderful evening, José Greenblatt, writes, “I am sure that many a tear was shed, but it was an amazing and glorious end to an era. Port Elizabeth has a right to feel proud, having given their *Shul* a magnificent send off.”

The building has now been sold to developers, but the community will retain the Abraham Levy Centre section, with the small *shul*, the community administration, the kitchen, mikveh and Rabbi’s flat.

The last major function in the Big *Shul* before it finally closes its doors will be the wedding of Sherri Spilkin to Shaun Segal on 18 December.

FOOTSTEPS IN THE PAST

Doreen Berger

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PORT ELIZABETH: THE NEW CONGREGATION

To the Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*

Sir, We see so little in your publication about this far-distant but rising colony, that I venture to write a few lines, hoping that the same may prove interesting to your readers. On religious matters here is (*sic*) but little to say. A short time since a meeting of co-religionists was held for the purpose of forming themselves into a congregation, and also for the purpose of establishing a burial-place, since hitherto, in case of death, the body had to be conveyed to Graham’s Town, a two days’ journey from here. At the meeting provisional trustees were appointed, and application made to the Town Council for a piece of ground, which was immediately granted, but alas, from that day it still remains in abeyance.

There are now residing here about 12 families and a number of single men, all I am happy to say, in good positions. The latter, I am sorry to say, as is always the case, take but little interest in what concerns our faith. In speaking of the senior portion of our community, I may say, and you may believe me, being one myself, that they are anxious to get married, but, alas, there are no ladies of our own faith.

I see occasionally from your paper that there are in England Jewish ladies as anxious to get married as we are. I may say without fear of contradiction, that any Englishman of our faith with a family of grown-up daughters would find it here easy to earn a livelihood as he finds it difficult to do so at home; besides which, he would secure husbands for his daughters in a position that he could not hope for in England. Of the climate you doubtless have heard much; suffice it for me to say that it is all that could be desired.

I cannot hold out any inducement in anything in the shape of amusements, except it may be the occasional theatrical performance or a concert, but if a good climate, an almost certainty of respectable livelihood, and a great probability of good husbands for their daughters will satisfy the fathers of families, then I say – come.

I am, sir, yours obediently, Young Hopeful, Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, 18 July 1862.

Jewish Chronicle 5 September 1862.

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**PORT ELIZABETH:
THE NEW CONGREGATION**

To the Editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*

Sir, Another month has past in the same dull style as previous ones, leaving behind it the feeling that some effort should be made, without further delay, to draw the few Jews here more closely within the bonds of brotherhood. It has been felt that unless some great efforts were made to attract men back to their religion, many might soon cease to feel that they were members of the noblest faith in the world.

Resolutions were come to after mature consideration, in spite of the many painful objections, difficult to be got over; the most serious of which is the feeling some entertain of being ashamed of admitting the creed of their forefathers. It is a difficult matter to believe that some men well-to-do in the world, educated men – aye, and many of them with families around them – men quite independent of the world, should be afraid of admitting that they are members of a faith which is so noble; and all this for fear of losing that hollow friendship of their Christian friends. In spite of the many obstacles in our way, the apparent indifference of several inhabitants, we have at last succeeded in bringing about a highly essential and important object.

Without further preface, I will inform you of what, no doubt, will be as gratifying for your readers to hear as it is for me to record – that we have established a Hebrew community at this port. At a meeting held at the residence of Mr J. Wallach on 7 July last, the above community was established.

I am, sir, yours obediently, Observer, Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, 15 August 1862.

Jewish Chronicle 14 November 1862,

NOTE: A Mr M. Wallach of Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony, who could have possibly been a son of the above gentleman, was married at Brighton on 26 August, 1863 to Julia, the eldest daughter of Mr C. H. Sloman, of London.

**A PIONEER LOOKS BACK . . .
BRAKPAN IS A MODEL
COMMUNITY**

Isaac Connack

This article was originally published in the South African Jewish Times on Friday, 26 October 1973. This publication has not been in existence for many years.

A date still clearly embedded in my mind is April 1, 1917. That is the day, more than 56 years ago, when I came to live in Brakpan and opened a furniture business there. There were only two Jewish families in Brakpan then, Mr. and Mrs. Hyman and Mr. and Mrs. Schwab.

Towards the end of that year several more Jewish families came to settle in Brakpan, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Berman, Mr. and Mrs. Kinkel, Mr. and Mrs. Krantz, and Charlie and Max Appelbaum.

Later, in 1918 still more Jewish families came. They were Mr. and Mrs. Weintraub, Mr. and Mrs. Weinberg, Mr. and Mrs. Levitas, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Joffe and his son Charlie and a young solicitor, Mr. Selvan. I specially mentioned these names because they eventually took a leading part in the development of our community.

Towards the end of 1918 we met in Mr. Hyman's house at the back of his wood and iron shop. There we decided to form the Brakpan Hebrew Congregation. Mr. Hyman was elected chairman and I was elected secretary.

INAUGURAL MEETING

Only a dozen people attended that inaugural meeting. We appointed a spiritual leader and

Hebrew teacher in the person of the Rev. Maisels, and launched a campaign to build a place of worship. Within a short time sufficient funds had been collected to build a small hall in Queen's Avenue. This served the young congregation as a house of worship and social centre.

In 1920 Brakpan attracted a large number of Jewish residents and during that year the community expanded its activities. The Brakpan Zionist Society, under the chairmanship of the writer of this article, was established. He subsequently became the first president of the United Hebrew Institution of Brakpan, and the Hebrew Order of Druids, as the H.O.D. was then called. The late Mr. Meyer Joffe was the first president of the latter.

Brakpan Jewry has an enviable reputation for its support of the I.U.A. and local communal funds, and as long ago as 1921 was making a name for itself as a result of its enthusiasm for the Palestine Restoration Fund, launched by the local Zionist Society. Even more remarkable was its support for the first Keren Hayesod campaign, launched in 1926.

That was the year I was elected chairman of the Brakpan Hebrew Congregation with a mandate to create the United Hebrew Institution of Brakpan, incorporating the Talmud Torah, the Chevra Kadisha and the Gemiluth Chesed. After some initial opposition, the proposal to establish the U.H.I., with Mr. Chas. Joffe as hon. Secretary.

UMBRELLA

Brakpan thus became the second Reef Community (the first having been Benoni) to establish an umbrella organisation for its Jewish institutions.

Mainly through the efforts of Mr. Joffe and myself the community was able to buy the two stands on which the present Synagogue was subsequently built. At the time, 1926, they cost only 325 pounds.

The following year a campaign was launched for funds to build a synagogue on these stands, and within a short while a substantial amount was collected. It was some time before building could be started, and it was on August 30, 1931, that Mr. A.M. Weintraub, who had been elected president of the U.H.I. the previous year, laid the foundation stone of the new synagogue. In 1932, Rev. Silverman, who had succeeded the Rev. Maisels as

the spiritual leader of the congregation, resigned and the following year the Rev. M. Altshuler was appointed Minister of the U.H.I. Shortly afterwards the Rev. L. Movsas was engaged to assist Rev. Altshuler with his work.

ENLARGED

Just a little over 20 years after the new synagogue had been dedicated, it proved too small for the growing congregation, and in 1955 it was enlarged at a cost of £9 000, to accommodate an additional 168 seats.

The U.H.I. of Brakpan has reached its present enviable position under the presidency of Mr. Nat Weinberg, who assumed office in 1948. He was preceded in office by six other outstanding communal leaders, whose names it is only fitting to record.

I was the first president of the U.H.I., taking office in 1926. I was succeeded in 1930 by the late Mr. A. Weintraub who remained in office until 1934. Mr. S. Levin followed Mr. Weintraub in office on the first occasion, serving as president in 1934 and 1935. The late Mr. J.M. Robinson led the congregation in 1936, 1937 and 1938 and after Mr. Weintraub's second term in office Mr. M. Appelbaum took over the presidency serving in 1942 and 1943. Mr. M. Adno was president in 1944 and 1945, and the late Mr. Robinson was then re-elected to office for 1946 and 1947.

BURDEN

Much of the administrative burden of the U.H.I. developed on the secretary, Mr. M. Waisbrod. His equally well-known predecessor, Mr. W. Horwitz, served the community in that office from 1942 to 1949. Mr. Waisbrod resigned as secretary of the U.H.I. in 1968 and went on Aliyah. Mr. Solly Zev was appointed in his stead and still holds this post.

From time to time Zionist leaders visited Brakpan, one particular personality who visited Brakpan was Ze'ev Jabotinsky. That was in 1938. I was at that time and still am a supporter of the Revisionist Movement. We organised a meeting for him in the Cavendish Court Hall, and after the meeting he and his party were entertained to tea in my home.

HEBREW CENTRE

In 1959 we completed the new communal Hebrew centre consisting of a modern nursery school, Talmud Torah and communal hall. The architects were Abramowitz and Harold Schneider.

The centre was opened by former Chief Rabbi, L.I. Rabinowitz. The Shul service was conducted by Rev. M. Altshuler assisted by Rev. Movas. Amongst the 400 present were Mr. B.J. Vorster (then Minister of Education and now Prime Minister of the Republic), and Mayor and Mayoress, Clr. And Mrs. J.H. Meyer, Mr. N. Kirschner and Mr. Bezuidenhout M.P.

I was the master of ceremonies and welcomed the large gathering of 400 people present. Mr. Naty Weinberg and Mr. N. Kirshner unveiled the foundation stones.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Rev. Altshuler was presented with an illuminated scroll in recognition of his 25 years service to our community.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

Our Brakpan Jewish community has not been particularly Civic minded. In all the years I have been in Brakpan we have only had three Jewish Town Councillors. The late Jack Shepherd who died in 1955 was a Town Councillor and he was also a Deputy Mayor. Mr. Nathan Weinberg, our present president of the U.H.I. was a Town Councillor for a short period. Gerald Kalk was a Town Councillor for 10 years from 1957 – 1967 and in 1962 he was elected Mayor of the Town.

It was a red letter day for the Brakpan Jewish community when the Mayoral Sunday Service was held in the Synagogue. The late Rev. Altshuler conducted the service and delivered the sermon.

The Rev. Altshuler died on October 5, 1967. He has been succeeded by Rabbi Broder. Rabbi and Mrs. Broder and their family have settled down comfortably in our *Shul* House and I am sure that they will serve our community for many years to come.

Our community dwindled in the past 10 years. In 1960 there were 220 members, now it has come

down to 120. Nevertheless we still command a Minion for morning and evening services every day.

UNBROKEN SERVICE

Mr. Naty Weinberg has the single honour of having served as president of the U.H.I. for an unbroken period of 25 years. He is devoted to the *Shul* and to the community and well deserves the honour.

Our president executive and committee is as follows:

N. Weinberg (President), A. Berger (Vice-President), L. Kramer (treasurer), S. Zev (secretary), D. Buskin, J.P. Gerber, R. Laffer, J. Waner, G. Mindel, B. Weinberg, A. Kadey, J. Wasserman, A. Adno (chairman, Chevra Kadisha), hon. life presidents I. Connack and N. Weinberg.

I am writing this history partly from memory and partly from documents still in my possession. I have already passed my 80th birthday and have no one left of my contemporaries to assist me or to correct any one of my statements. It seems that I have outlived them all. My last friend and contemporary, Chas. Appelbaum died on March 15. I hope, with the help of the Almighty to continue from here at a later date.

SA SIG Lunch

*The 26th IAJGS Conference on Jewish
Genealogy
13-18 August 2006
New York*

The Southern Africa Special Interest Group (SA-SIG) luncheon at the 26th IAJGS Conference has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th.

The guest speaker will be Ann Rabinowitz of Miami Beach, probably the most knowledgeable and dedicated contributors to the SA-SIG.

The topic is "Kuposhikers in Africa". Her story entitled "A Journey to Africa and Beyond – a Few Vignettes" is appropriate as it encapsulates what happened to many families who came to South Africa. Her South African connection is the Choritz family of Bot River.

Those who want to attend MUST register on the Conference Website. Paying at the door will NOT be an option.

Please go to <http://www.jgsny2006.org/> for further information about the conference and registering.

There will also be several South African related lectures, a computer workshop, and a general SA-SIG meeting at the conference.

EXTRACTS FROM TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA, ZIMBABWE, AND BOTSWANA

**November 10, 1997 to
November 25, 1997**

Irwin Sagenkahn

PREFACE

I was not aware of it at the time, but this trip to South Africa was conceived in February 1990. At that time, I had received a letter from an unknown first cousin who lived in Moscow, USSR. The only family I knew of then was the family of my father's two brothers and one sister who had immigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. I remembered that one sister of my father who lived in Moscow had survived World War 11. Everyone else, to my knowledge, had perished in the Holocaust. My wife had met a Dr. Max **SAGENHAHN** in Jerusalem in 1985, but I did not know how he was related to me.

The letter from that cousin in Moscow triggered a hidden desire to learn more about my roots. And so I began writing to various cousins in the United States to learn what they knew about the family. Those first letters produced additional names of possible relatives both in the United States and Israel. Those names provided the nucleus of a newsletter base and I began a newsletter sharing information I had received. The newsletter had the purpose of stimulating some interest in our family history.

The result has been a trip to Moscow in August 1990 to meet my first cousin, Abram **DACHEVSKY**, the author of that first letter. As I expanded my mailing list, Sally and I went to Lithuania and Latvia in June 1993. In Riga, Latvia, we met another family member, Ludmilla **GERCBAHA**, who had survived the Holocaust. In May 1994, we attended the Jewish Genealogical Society Seminar in Jerusalem and met for the first time new Israeli cousins. We went back to Israel in November 1995 and attended a family reunion at Herzlia. In June 1996, we made a return trip to Lithuania and Latvia with Cousin Ina **SAGENKAHN** Zigelman.

I had discovered from Zundel **FISH** and Dr. Benny **COHEN** in Israel that I also had a South African connection. Mimi **SAGENKAHN** Tamari also

provided me with names and addresses. My first inquiries into the South African archives looking for **SAGENKAHN**'s in 1992 met with failure. It was not until I learned from Zundel **FISH** that his grandfather, Zundel **ZAGENKAHN**, after whom he was named, was a brother to my grandfather, Shmuel **SAGENKAHN**. At that time, I was informed that Zundel **ZAGENKAHN** had changed his name to Sidney **COHEN** after he had immigrated to South Africa in the early 1900's. I was originally searching for **SAGENKAHN**'s in South Africa and not **COHEN**'s.

A meeting in New York City with Zara **JACKSON** from Houghton, South Africa, in May 1996 finally produced the seed that has germinated in this trip. The finishing touches on the preparation of the trip were assisted in luncheon meetings in New York City in May 1997 with cousins Wendy **BARLIN** and Merle **SAXE** and family, all from the Cape Town area. There were also letters of encouragement from other cousins who had written to me from South Africa since I first made contact with them in 1993.

Friday, November 14, 1997

In the morning we decided to go to the aquarium in the Waterfront area.

We went back to our hotel for lunch and rested in the afternoon in preparation for the reunion in the evening. The reunion was held at a private restaurant called the Europa. We had a private room on the second floor. Fortunately, everybody was given a name tag and I was meeting for the first time cousins I knew by name only. It was an unforgettable experience. I tried to have everybody sign in so we could have a record of all those who attended. The count was supposed to be about 50, but less signed the register. So some people will be unaccounted for:

Gladys **FISH**; Louis and Rachel (Bubbles) Fish **LOURIE**; Ben and Thelma **LOURIE**; Simmy **LEWIS**; Dr. Louis and Berthe Cohen **BASS**; Wolfe and Rifkie (Renee) Luntz **RAKIN**; Mervyn **SHAFFER**; Leonard and Dorothy Samson **SANK**; Jordy **SANK**; Dr. Ruth **FRIEDMAN**; Melanie **FRIEDMAN**; Ian and Jean **BARLIN**; Anton **FRIEDMAN** (son of Bernard and Jerne **FRIEDMAN**); Marc and Nicholas **FRIEDMAN**; Antony **FRIEDMAN**; Benjamin **LOURIE**;

Thelma, Lisa (9 years) and Daniel (6 years), Roslyn **FISH**; Neville **HODGSON**, and children, Jonathon, Timothy and Anthony. Steven and Franki Samson **COHEN**; Cyril and Merle Friedman **SAXE**; Abe and Micky **FRIEDMAN**; Marc and Tracy **BATTEN**; Ashley, Joanne, Genna and Jonty **WACHENHEIMER**; Barry **FRIEDMAN**; Benjamin **FRIEDMAN** (sons of Abe and Micky); Gary and Lauren Saxe **TRAPPLER**.

Sally and I sat with Abe and Mickey **FRIEDMAN**, Cyril and Merle **SAXE**, Ben and Jill **FRIEDMAN**. I tried to meet and talk with everybody. After dinner, Cyril **SAXE** made some opening remarks and introduced me. I responded by explaining how I began with no information in 1990 to having a family chart with about 1,000 names 7 years later. Afterwards, Cyril presented a beautiful plaque to us in which four disadvantaged children in Israel will be sent to a summer camp in Israel in our honor. It was very thoughtful of them and totally unexpected, but certainly appreciated. I also gave out to the children some NBC Olympic pins I had brought with me. I also took some video and Sally took some still pictures. It was a momentous evening.

Monday, November 17, 1997

At about 10:00 a.m., the weather has cleared and the wind is non-existent and Table Mountain is clear. We can see the amount of cars parked on the road to the cable car. There must be an astronomical amount of passengers waiting to go to the top via the cable car. Since we are going to the Strand today, this is a tourist attraction we will have to forego.

10:30 a.m. – We arrived at Mickey and Abe **FRIEDMAN**'s apartment. The apartment overlooks the beach that is on the Indian Ocean. The view is just breathtaking. Soon after we arrived, Abe came in and then their son, Barry joined us about noon for lunch. The lunch was delicious. And our discussion concerned family history. Barry said he would try to locate the grave of Sam **LEVY** at the old Pinelands cemetery in the Cape Town area. Barry's father-in-law is involved in the monument business and goes to that cemetery. By way of explanation, I have been trying to tie Sam **LEVY** as being the son of Jacob **ZAGENKAHN**. The story is that Sam **LEVY** changed his name to **LEVY** when he immigrated to South Africa. Barry did email me a message when I got home that the tombstone of

Sam **LEVY** shows he is the son of Jacob. Now all we need is Jacob's last name although I doubt he is the brother of my grandfather, Shmuel.

Abe owns one of the few remaining independent department stores left in South Africa. The store is called **FRIEDMAN** and **COHEN**. After lunch, Abe drove us to the building that housed the original store that Abe's father had started in the early 1900's. The family still owns the building and the store was known as the Bridge. It was also their home. It could easily be the location of the building in a photograph in which my Uncle Ben **SAGENKAHN** appears. That picture was probably taken circa 1905. My uncle Ben did spend some time in South Africa in the early 1900's before immigrating to the United States.

Sunday, November 23, 1997

We were picked up at our hotel at 10.30 am by Beryl and Felicity **SAMSON** Berman who drove us to the family reunion. I believe it was held at a place called the Courtyard. There was coffee and open-faced sandwiches for this morning tea. Over 40 people attended. The only complaint was that there were no name tags. Although I knew my cousins by name, it was extremely difficult for me to remember the people I was meeting. Unfortunately, I was so busy meeting cousins, I just couldn't speak with everybody. Later in the morning, Sakkie **KATZENELLENBOGEN** spoke and then introduced me. I spoke explaining as I did in Cape Town how I began in 1990 recording family history and what has been accomplished to the present time.

Those who attended include:

Peggy and Sakkie **KATZENELLENBOGEN**; Barbara and Hilton **LOSINSKY**; Helen, Jules, Mel, Stephanie, Tanya, Cayla, Adam, and Gabriella **URDANG**; Joe and Selma Barlin **KATZMAN**, and children Andrea, Darren and Gary. David, Sharon, Steven and Justine **LEVITAS**; Ben, Esta, Ryan, Mikhalla, Erin **LEVITAS**; Karen and Micky (nee **URDANG**), Jerne and Bernard **FRIEDMAN**; Berel and Felicity Samson **BERMAN**; Millie **BATTEN**; Charles **KATZENELLENBOGEN**; Joel **KAHAN**.

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*The following piece about the origin of the business **Friedman and Cohen** was originally published in*

Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities, Volume II. Published by The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth 2004, and is reprinted here with permission.

*A young Lithuanian-born man by the name of Benjamin Friedman arrived in Cape Town in 1903 and worked at the docks for six months for 2/- (20 cents) per day. After he had saved a little money and taught himself to speak a little English and Afrikaans, he decided it was time to start his own business. He bought a bicycle for 10/- (1 Rand) and cycled all the way from Cape Town past Goodwood, Parow, Bellville, Kuilsriver, Faure, Firgrove, to Somerset West. At Somerset West he learned that the Cape Dynamite Factory, (now AECI) was being opened by Cecil John Rhodes, and that it would employ a large number of people. Benjamin obtained a general dealer's licence from the magistrate for 2/6 (25 cents), then hired a shop in Station Road, Somerset West, in 1906 and proceeded to Cape Town to purchase stocks. Messrs JW Jagger & Co, the wholesaler, refused to open an account for him without references which he was unable to supply. He then suggested that they send the order COD. When the goods arrived at the station, he found that, luckily, they were not marked COD. He took delivery, sold the goods and immediately went to Jagers to pay the account with his first earnings. They immediately opened an account for him and he was in business as **Friedman and Cohen**. The business has remained in the family for three generations.*

(Adapted from: Domicilium, 1 Jan 2000)

Benjamin Friedman's maternal grandfather, **Zundel Zagenkahn** (who changed his name to **Sidney Cohen**), and my paternal grandfather, **Shmuel Sagenkahn** were brothers.

**SOUTH AFRICAN SMALL
COUNTRY COMMUNITIES
PROJECT
Volumes 3, 4, and 5**

The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth are in the process of researching the next 3 volumes for the *South African Country Communities Project*. The project does not cover large urban areas such as Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, etc.

Volume 3

Southern and Eastern Cape, former Ciskei and Transkei, which have been divided into the following regions: Camdeboo, Cape Midlands, Garden Route, Griqualand East, Langkloof, Little Karoo, N.E. Cape, Overberg, Settler, and Transkei (*excluding* Port Elizabeth & East London, but *including* Grahamstown).

Volume 4

KwaZulu-Natal and (Orange) Free State (*excluding* Bloemfontein and Durban, but *including* Pietermaritzburg).

Volume 5

The entire Witwatersrand, Southern and Western Transvaal (*excluding* Johannesburg and Pretoria).



The main towns and regions being researched for **Volume 3** are listed below. *A detailed list of the main towns and regions being researched for Volumes 4 and 5 will be included in future issues of this Newsletter.*

If you have lived or currently live in any of the areas mentioned below or have any information about these communities, or are aware of any communities that may inadvertently have been missed out, *The South African Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth* would like to hear from you. They are interested in photographs or any memoirs or recollections you may have. **Volume 3** publication is planned for early 2007 so contributions are needed a.s.a.p. please for those towns.

The staff at SA Friends of Beth Hatefutsoth (Elona, Lee and Margaret) can be contacted by e-mail at

museum@beyachad.co.za, or phone +27 11 645 2598.

Towns and Regions being researched for Volume 3 include the following:

Towns and Villages in the Camdeboo Region include:

Aberdeen, Aberdeen Road, Adendorp, Bethesdaweg, Graaff-Reinet, Jansenville, Kendrew, Kiewetskuil, Klipfontein, Klipplaat, Kruidfontein, Middleton, Murraysburg, Nieu-Bethesda, Oatlands, Pearston, Petersburg, Rivertjie, Suurplaas, Somerset East, Thorngrove

Towns and Villages in the Cape Midlands Region:

Adelaide, Alice, Alicedale, Balmoral, Baroe, Beaufort, Bedford, Berlin, Blaney (Junction), Breidbach, Buxton, Cathcart, Coega, Cookhouse, Cradock, Debe Nek, Draaibos, Dwingfontein, Elandsdrif, Fort Beaufort, Fort Hare, Frankfort, Fullarton, Gaga, Glen Grey, Golden Valley, Gwaba, Hankey, Halesowen, Hartebeestkuil, Hertzog, Hogsback, Hukuwe, Imvani, Iquibica, Katberg, Kat River, Kei Road, Keiskammahoek, King William's Town, Knoetze, Komga, Kubusi, Lady Frere, Loerie, Lovedale, Mabonga, Middeldrift, Mortimer, Mount Coke, Mpetu, Ngwenya, Ntsikizini, Paterson, Peelton, Prospect, Queenstown, Riebeeck-East, Rietbron, Ripon, Sandflats, Sandkraalspoort, Sandvlakte, St. Marks, Seymour, Sidbury, Spring Valley, Steytlerville, Stutterheim, Sunnyside, Tamacha, Tarkastad, Tidbury's Toll, Uitenhage, Visrivier, Vondeling, Whittlesea, Willowmore, Witteklip, Yellowwoods, Zigodle

Towns and Villages in the Garden Route Region:

Blanco, George, Groot-Brakrivier, Knysna, Pacaltsdorp, Plettenberg Bay, Rondevlei, Saasveld, Sedgfield, Swartvlei, The Craggs, Wilderness, Wittedrif, Zebra

Towns and Villages in the Griqualand East Region:

Alfred, Bizana, Cedarville, Flagstaff, Franklin, Kenegha Drift, Kokstad, Matatiele, Mount Ayliffe, Mount Currie, Mount Fletcher, Mount Frere, Umzimkhulu

Towns and Villages in the Langkloof Region:

Addo, Andrieskraal, Armmansvriend, Barandas, Bluecliff, Blueliliesbush, Buffelsdrif, Buffelsklip, Cape St Francis, Coerney, Eersterivierstrand, Glenconnor, Greystone, Hankey, Haarlem, Humansdorp, Jeffreys Bay, Joubertina, Kareedouw, Kariega, Kirkwood, Kleinpoort, Kleinwinterhoekberge, Krakeel River, Kruisfontein, Milton, Noll's Halt/Noll, Patensie, Sapkamma, Selborne, Sunland, Tregardon, Twee Riviere, Uniondale, Vleikraal, Waterford, Wolwefontein

Towns and Villages in the Little Karoo Region:

Calitzdorp, Ladismith, Montagu, Vanwyksdorp, Zoar

Towns and Villages in the N.E. Cape Region:

Albert, Aliwal North, Allemanspoort, Ararat, Barkly East, Barkly Pass, Belmore, Bird's River, Burgersdorp, Cala, Cala Road, Clanville, Clifford, Dordrecht, Elliot, Gelegenfontein, Goedemoed, Gubenxa, Halseton, Herschel, Hofmeyr, Indwe, Jamestown, Johnston's Leap, Knapdaar, Lady Grey, Maclear, Molteno, Morristown, Moshesh's Ford, Motkop, Platkoppiesdrif, Quaggasfontein, Rhodes, Roodenek, Rossouw, Siberia, Sterkstroom, Steynsburg, Stormberg, Swempoort, Syfergat, Teviot, Ugie, Venterstad, Witkop, Wolwekloof, Xalanga

Towns and Villages in the Overberg Region:

Albertinia, Albertyn, Askraal, Ashton, Barrydale, Bonnievale, Botrivier, Bredasdorp, Buffeljagsrivier, Caledon, Daansbaai, Droevlakte, Elgin, Grabouw, Greyton, Hawston, Heidelberg, Herbertsdale, Hermanus, Houwhoek, Kleinmond, Klein-Brakrivier, Klipkraal, Malgas, McGregor, Mossel Bay, Muiskraal, Napier, Onrus, Port Beaufort, Protem (Rail), Riversdale, Riviersonderend, Robertson, Stanford, Stormsvlei, Swellendam, Suurbrak, Villiersdorp

Towns and Villages in the Settler Region:

Albany, Alexandria, Bathurst, Bell, Bloukrans, Breakfast Vlei, Crossroads, Douglas Heights, Fort Brown, Grahamstown, Hamburg, Kidd's Beach, Langholm, Manley Flats, Martindale, Newtondale, Peddie, Port Alfred, Prudhoe, Salem, Thorns, Zuney

Towns and Villages in the Transkei Region:

Bashee Bridge, Bojeni, Butterworth, Cofimvaba, Elliotdale, Engcobo, Idutywa, Jujura, Libode, Lusikisiki, Miller's Station, Mpulusi, Mqanduli, Mtshanyana, Munyu, Ngqeleni, Nkanga, Nqabara, Nqamakwe, Port St. Johns, Qumbu, Tsolo, Tsomo, Umtata, Willowdale

**MEMBERSHIP IS NOW DUE TO JUNE
2006**

Subscription fees for the SA-SIG Newsletter are due.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. An annual subscription (4 issues) costs US\$20, two years (8 issues) costs US\$35. The subscription year runs from **1 July of the current year to 30 June of the succeeding year**. Members joining during a year receive back issues.

The SA-SIG Newsletter is available in two formats:

- **A printed magazine-style format** which we will mail to you by post. There is a subscription fee to cover materials and mailing costs
- **An on-line PDF format** which you can download into your computer, read whenever desired and print on your printer. If you wish to be advised by e-mail when a new issue is available for downloading, then please send an e-mail request to Mike Getz at MikeGetz005@comcast.net

If you require a printed magazine-style format which is dispatched by airmail, please go to the SA-SIG Website for a postal subscription form which you can print.

You can also pay online. Just follow the instructions on the Website:

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

If you wish to subscribe and pay off-line by postal mail, a subscription form is available on the last page of this Newsletter.

**The 26th IAJGS International Conference on
Jewish Genealogy
will be held 13 – 18 August 2006
at the New York Marriott Marquis Hotel**

Recently confirmed speakers so far include:

- The keynote speaker will be Dr. **Allen Weinstein**, the Ninth Archivist of the United States
- **Peter Lande**, a longtime volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, will present a paper on the newest holdings of the Museum Archives
- Dr **Stephen Morse** will speak and also teach in the Computer Lab
- **Stanley Bergman**, the Director of the Centre for Jewish History's Cahnman Preservation Laboratory, will offer programs on conservation and other multi-media presentation of family histories
- Genetic DNA pioneer **Bennett Greenspan** of Family Tree DNA, will address exciting new developments in the field
- Fordham University Professor **Daniel Soyer**, will present *Landsmanshaftn: East European Jewish Hometown Societies in the New World*, which will explore resources for and origins, functions, and culture of the landsmanshaftn
- Dr **Simone Eick**, the Scientific Director of Deutsches Auswandererhaus (the German Emigration Centre in Bremerhaven), will speak about the Museum's recently-opened research facilities
- Dr **Eleanora Bergman**, Deputy Director of Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute – a specialist in old synagogues
- Professor **Phil Brown**, founder of the Catskills Institute, will be presenting a paper – the *Jewish Legacy of the Catskills*

Other speakers previously confirmed include Stanley Diamond, Olga Muzychuk, Daniel Schlyter, Marian Smith, and Miriam Weiner, while JewishGen, as always, will be represented in numerous ways.

As well as the above interesting sessions, the *Southern Africa Special Interest Group* (SA-SIG) will be running its annual group meeting, will be holding an SA-SIG Luncheon (see box on page 21), and will be holding a Computer Lab class on South African genealogy research. The Computer Lab at the Conference, with twenty-five PCs, will provide instructor-guided hands-on experience in a series of classes on a wide range of topics.

For more information about the conference, see:
<http://www.jgsny2006.org/>

SURNAMES APPEARING IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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

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