

CHOL – Community History On-Line

A forum for those involved in preserving the footprint of Southern African Jewish community life in digital form

[Home](#) [About](#) [Stories](#) [Memoirs](#) [Presentations](#) [Journals](#) [Communities](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#)

Community History On-Line Newsletter #2 24 January 2024

'I am so relieved that thanks to you and the CHOL initiative, all this rich material and history presently squirreled away in my files and my head, will not be lost.

Colin Robinson (see his family story of Malmesbury here: [Berman, Jacob and Rebecca](#))

Muizenberg Congratulations to Muizenberg on reaching the centenary of its fine shul and celebrating this milestone internationally in January 2024 – having two Chief Rabbi's present: Ephraim Mirvis of the UK and Warren Goldstein of SA. [muizenberg-shul-centenary](#)



We have published a story by Dan Cramer of the annual train trip to Muizenberg which might evoke memories of many. Remember these **SAR/SAS compartments**. Read the story here on the CHOL memoirs page: [Muizenberg as a Visitor](#)



Community updates:

Muizenberg website

Eli Rabinowitz had been refurbishing his Kehilalinks site for: [Muizenberg](#).

He has notes of all and some videos of the opening speeches of the

'Memories of Muizenberg'

exhibitions around the world. There are also many personal memoirs and photos as well as a link to the current community. Its still a work in progress. If you want to add your memories please send them to elirab@iinet.net.au. Thanks to your responses and added information on the story of the Muizenberg hotels with Jewish connections we have updated this including a picture and discussion on the great fire that destroyed the famous Alexandra Hotel. It will soon replace the original. We have now written a saga of the beach and bathing boxes which I attach it for you. if you have something to ass to this write tome at geraldine@chol.website.

Roodepoort Website is slowly building



Geoffrey Boner is getting on with the Roodepoort site. it's so important to do these things if you think of them and not delay. Brian Josselowitz who collected the material has passed away and since Geoff has tried to get the family permission to make the site, Brians wife has also passed away. Fortunately. his sister Jenny is in touch with Geoff and has the latest material. (Geoff himself in in his

80s). The site is not yet published but you can have a look here: [Roodepoort Sneak Peek](#): If you have information on Roodepoort please get in touch with Geoffrey gboner1@013.net (pictured is Roodepoort synagogue started in 1905)

Kimberley – [Virtual Cemetery](#) to be ‘blessed’ by Rabbi Silberhaft

**Welcome to the
Virtual Cemetery of the
Kimberley Jewish Community.**
(Click the link above to go to the website.)



[Home](#) [Buy Some Leaves](#) [Place A Stone](#) [Upload A Picture](#) [Post A Message](#) [Donate](#)

Please join the Zoom on Sunday 4 February when Chairman of the Kimberley Jewish Community and Chair of the South African Jewish Small Communities Association and Rabbi Moshe the Travelling Rabbi to walk this new facility. A few citizens and ex-pats will talk about their relatives, and you will see all the features of this site. If you click this link, you can have a sneak peek at the Virtual Cemetery too here: <https://kimberley.jewishcemetery.net/> email geraldine@chol.website for the link to join the zoom.

Oudtshoorn

We look forward to fleshing out the [Oudtshoorn Kehilalink family pages](#) – thanks to a new initiative to collect family stories. If you have a family story connected with the ‘Jerusalem of South Africa’ send it to info@chol.website and we will pass it on. We can edit and format it, so just send whatever words and pictures that you have.

Next CHOL Activity

You can read an article about opera star [SAJR Aviva Pelham](#) – one of the South African musicians we missed out on, in the recent music series. Another was SA Yiddish Diva Chayela Rosenthal – you can see her extensive website here <https://chayela.com/> Other music sessions can be seen on our website here: <https://www.chol.website/presentations.htm>.

The CHOL committee will be meeting soon to discuss our next activity. A few suggestions are listed below. Which would you be more interested in or do you have any other suggestions? The meeting is on Wednesday 14 February at 2.00pm South African and Israeli time. If you would like to join the meeting, contact us at info@chol.website and we will send you the link. Some ideas:

1. **Prof Shirli Gilbert** (UCL) would like to talk with Adam Mendelsohn about a Jewish Historical Society journal issue focusing on Jewish history research in South Africa.
2. **Alan Swerdlow and Mark Wade** would be willing to present excerpts of and talk about their series Legends and Legacies – or to talk about South African Jews in theatre at home– and abroad.
3. Gail suggested: we should ask Professor **Richard Mendelsohn** to talk about any subject of his choice.
4. **Naomi Schamroth** might want to tell some stories about her research. She has covered several fields.
5. There have been quite a few South African writers who've written **books with South African themes** - mainly fiction. Maybe they could tell us how this came about? The issues that were relevant to them? I know of three such writers.
6. And then of course there are **dancers who have made a name for themselves** in the countries they settled in as well as influencing the local dancing scene in South Africa...

Share Your Stories – February

The large group of writers that Gail has connected in the **Share Your Stories** section have felt specially blessed and fortified these last three months by being able to share their reflections and thoughts, hopes and fears about the horrors and trauma we all feel, wherever we may be since 7 October. Gail has circulated many responses. The next Share Your Stories zoom session will hopefully take place quite soon. If you would like to share something you have felt or written – please contact gail@chol.website

Newsletter no 2 comes to you with every good wish for calm and peace in a troubled world. Geraldine and Gail and all at CHOL contact us at info@chol.website

Checkout the CHOL website: www.chol.website which now has on it:

- 111 original stories
- 24 Video presentations
- 29 Memoirs
- 45 communities - also resources and journal articles etc

CHOL – Community History On-Line is a forum set up in 2020, under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre at UCT and the South African Jewish Museum – bringing together all those working on / or interested in creating an online presence relating to the **History of Jewish Communities in Southern Africa**. Please send the attached Press Release to your local papers or synagogue magazines, to spread the word. www.chol.website info@chol.website.



SAJM
South African Jewish Museum