



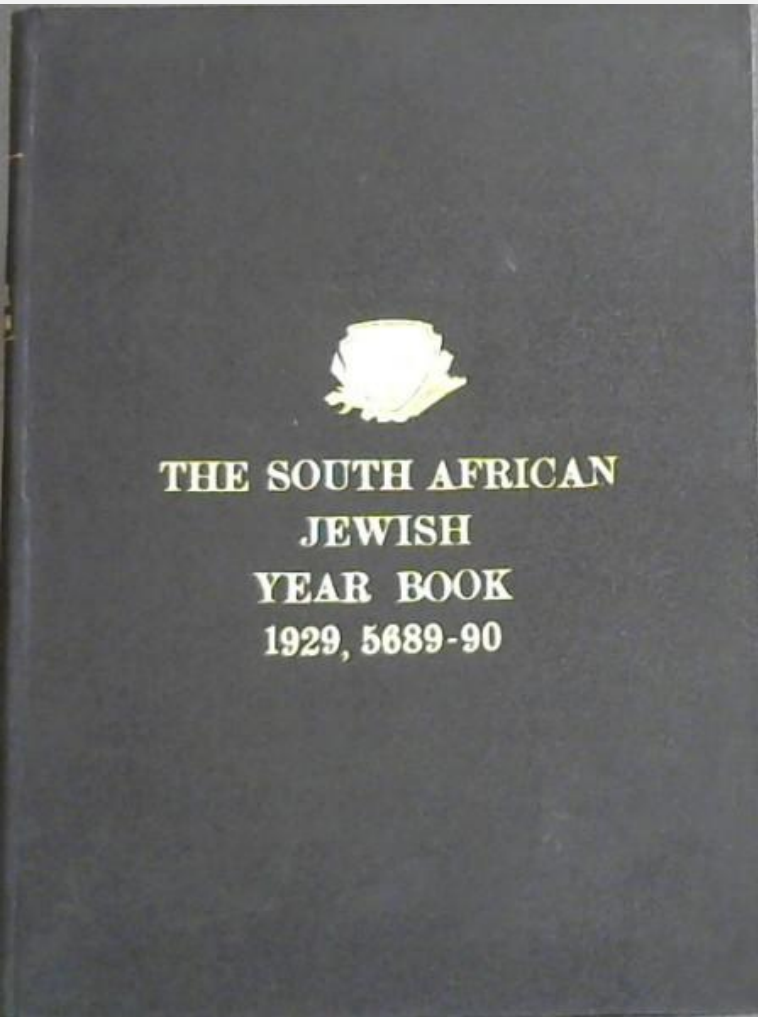
CHOL – Community History On-Line

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

CHOL: Community History On-Line: Newsletter #28 June 2026

In this issue: Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach London UK and Dr Jeremy Hodes, Australia, June 2026

South African Jewish Year Books of 1929 and 1967/8 transcribed by Jeremy Hodes



The South African Jewish Year Book 1929, 5689-90 was the first directory of Jewish organisations and a Who's Who of South African Jewry.

It was edited by Morris De Saxe and the associate editor was IM Goodman.

According to **Gus Saron**, eminent South African historian, the initiative for the publication of the 1929 Year Book was to

..... have available reliable statistics and facts in order to refute the anti-Jewish propaganda which periodically troubled the community.

This first Year Book was compiled and issued under the joint auspices of **The South African Jewish Historical Society** and **The South African Jewish Board of Deputies**. It was published by The South African Jewish Historical

Society, Johannesburg in 1929.

This 1929 book was the first in a series of twelve 'Year Books' for 1942-43, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1959, 1959-60, 1960-61, and 1961-62. The material provided, they said, was 'an official record of matters Jewish in the southern portion of the continent of Africa'.

There were three similar volumes produced in 1965, 1967-68 and 1976-77 that were published privately by editor **Leon Feldberg**. The 1976-77 volume included a new separate 'Who's Who Section' for those South African Jews who had made aliyah to Israel. Also, a volume was produced by Dora L Sowden and Rabbi Maurice Konviser, that contained 350 'Who's Who' entries which was entitled ***The Jew in South Africa: A record of what individual Jews are doing in various spheres of the country's life.*** (Johannesburg: Century Publishing, 1945).

Limited quantities of these books were published and today these volumes are rare and hard to come by. But fortunately, thanks to CHOL member and genealogist Jeremy Hodes PhD of Albury, Australia, the information is now readily available wherever you are.

South African Jewry 1929 and 1967-68

Biographies extracted and digitised by Dr Jeremy Hodes from the South African Jewish Yearbook 1929 edited by Morris De Saxe and South African Jewry, 1967-68 edited by Leon Feldberg. Use the page, label or search box to find the information you are seeking.



Every word is searchable

Jeremy has expertly indexed two of the Year Books (so far) – the official one from 1929 and the private Feldberg one from 1967-68. Together they provide an invaluable snapshot – forever frozen in time – of South African Jewry and its immense contribution to South African life.

Jeremy says:

I have transcribed 3204 biographies (779 from 1929 and 2,425 from 1967/8) and several longer articles. Every word in the biographies and articles is searchable through the search box. This is useful if looking for locations, spouses, type of employment etc. Use the page, label or search box to find the information you are seeking. To distinguish entries from the two books, the records for 1929 have '1929 Yearbook' at the top. Where a person appears in both Yearbooks I have put their entries on the same page.

Jeremy explains:

I inherited my father's copy of South African Jewry 1967-68, edited by Leon Feldberg and published by Feldhill Publishing Co, Johannesburg, South Africa in 1968. I have long been interested in my family genealogy and felt guilty accessing other people's research without any significant contributions of my own. One day it occurred to me that I could correct this by indexing my dad's book and making it available on the Internet for all to use.

And so, this project was born. I decided to give each entry a separate page, to include the image and to transcribe the full text to enable every word to be searchable—useful when searching for surnames, locations, organisations or occupations.

It took me two years to work through the 2,425 biographical entries. I also transcribed several longer articles. It seemed a pity to stop there. I managed to procure a copy of the very rare 1929 South African Jewish Yearbook. The 779 entries in this book took me 6 months to complete and I am currently working through the accompanying longer articles. Once I have completed that I will make a start on the Sowden and Konviser book before working on the South African Jewry 3rd edition which covers the period 1976-77 and which also includes a Who's Who of South Africans who had settled in Israel.

I decided to dedicate the work to my father, Lionel Hodes (1924 – 2005) who was the General Secretary of the South African Zionist Federation from 1969 to 1973, in recognition of his communal service and contribution to South African Jewry. (see page 8)

What were the criteria for inclusion?

Jeremy says: I have yet to find out the criteria used for inclusion in the directories. I assume a newspaper article was placed inviting entries. The 1929 Yearbook mainly has 'significant' persons, but the 1967/8 work includes many perhaps more 'ordinary' people which is really useful for otherwise they would have been lost to posterity. One thing that really stands out in the biographies is the widespread commitment to religious and communal organisations. People were actively and proudly involved in South African Jewish life and its myriad organisations and causes. Another source of pride was service in the two world wars. Of interest too is how widely travelled many people were. Most of the people—if not born in South Africa— had come from Eastern Europe, Germany or England, and many of the doctors and dentists had studied in England, Scotland or the United States.

Several longer articles are also transcribed

What is especially valuable is that Jeremy has transcribed in a very readable form, several of the longer articles that you can click below to read: All the words in these transcriptions are also searchable. The most recent being the one on Rhodesia from the 1929 yearbook.

1929 Yearbook

- [The Jewish Communities of Rhodesia and the North by the Rev. M. I. Cohen \(Minister, Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation.\)](#)
- [The Educational Value of South African Jewish History by Dr. J. H. Hertz, Chief Rabbi of the United Synagogues of the British Empire](#)
- [The Jewish Board of Deputies in South Africa by Percy Cowan](#)
- [Mr. Siegfried Raphaely \(President, S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies\)](#)
- [South African Zionism by Jack Alexander](#)
- [Mr. A. M. Abrahams \(President, S.A. Zionist Federation\)](#)
- [The Binyan: A South African Business Enterprise in Palestine by I. B. Rudaizky](#)
- [The Hon. Mr. Justice L. Greenberg](#)
- [The Jewish War Victims' Fund](#)
- [Saul Solomon by M Rabinowitz](#)
- [The Jewish Press in South Africa by J. S. Judelowitz](#)

- [The Jew in South African Literature by S A Rochlin](#)
- [The South African Young Israel Movement by Lewis Pinshaw](#)
- [South African Jews in the Universities by Arthur Lourie](#)

1967/8 Yearbook

- [Editorial: Planning for the Future by Leon Feldberg](#)
- [A Bird's-eye view of South African Jewry Today by Edgar Bernstein](#)
- [Jewish Contributions to Medicine in South Africa by Dr Louis Herrman](#)
- [Jewish Religious Life in South Africa by Rabbi Prof J. Newman](#)
- [At the turn of the century: Social and economic aspects of South African Jewish life at a formative stage by Gustav Saron](#)
- [Jews in the Platteland: the Small Communities of the Rural Towns by Rabbi E J Duschinsky](#)
- [Hyman Morris: A Pioneer of Johannesburg Jewry by Muriel Rathouse](#)
- [Some Jewish Scientists Associated With South Africa by Eric Rosenthal](#)

Examples of Biographical entries

Jeremy has added a few random biographical entries that give a flavour of the diversity and involvement of the community, at various levels; that he describes as: 'trailblazers, characters and ordinary everyday people!'

STEIN, Isaac (Itskok).

Born Ponovez, Lithuania, 1st November 1899, son of Abe and Fruma Stein. Came to South Africa 1925. Educated in Ponovez. Served as Corporal in Russian Army in 1916; wounded twice. Served on Russian-Austrian Front after Revolution. Fought against pogroms in E Katrinaslav in Ukraine. In 1922, won Russian title of heavy-weight champion wrestler and



weight-lifter. Dealt in cattle and horses whilst in Russia. In 1935 won S.A. Title of Heavy-Weight Wrestling (against Jim McMurdo). Proprietor I. Stein, Mining Material Merchant, Chairman for last 10 years of Ponovez Society; President Ponovez Synagogue for 10 years. Chairman Ponovez Gmilis Chesed and Distress Fund. Married Bluma Solomon 1918; one daughter, three sons. Add.: 59, Charlton Terrace, Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

Colourful Career of Founder of Leading Mining Material Supply House. Was S.A. Heavyweight Wrestling Champion

Mr. Isaac (Itskok) Stein, who founded the leading mining material supply and scrap metal business of I. STEIN in Denver, on the Reef in 1940, has had a romantic career, not only in South Africa, to which he immigrated in 1925, but in Russia and Lithuania as a young man.

His personal life story would make exciting reading as fiction. As fact, it is remarkable, not only for the colourful light it throws on his ability, tenacity, generosity, courage and physical prowess, but also on the vicissitudes which faced young Jews born in Eastern Europe at the turn of the century.

Itskok Stein was a cavalry corporal in the Russian Army in the first World War. He also had to take up physical arms against Russians who brutally assaulted fellow Jews in a pogrom in the Ukraine.

This biography reads like a blurb for an exciting adventure story.

STEIN, Isaac (Itskok), born 1899 in Ponevez, Lithuania. Cavalry Corporal in Russian Army, 1916. Twice wounded in 1917. Fought on the Russian - Austrian Front after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Fought against pogroms in Ye Katrinaslav in Ukraine. Started wrestling in his teens. Returned to Lithuania, and in 1922, won the Russian heavy-weight wrestling title and was recognised as champion weight-lifter.

In 1925, emigrated to South Africa, arriving in Cape Town. His family followed some months later—mother, wife and three children. Dealt in horses,



AS THE CHAMP.

trolleys and cattle. Moved to Johannesburg in 1927 and first worked in the abattoirs. He was a cattle dealer until the outbreak of the Second World War.

In 1935, Itskok Stein, at the age of 36, won the South African Heavy-weight Wrestling title in a great match against Jim McMurdo.

In 1940, he started a mining material business in Marshall Street—and later moved to Denver.

He has two sons, Abe and Arthur, and a daughter Leah Raik.

One son died during the War, after discharge from the I.L.H.

Mr. I. Stein has also been active in Communal Affairs and has been Chairman for the past ten years of the Ponevez Society, as well as President of the Ponevez Hebrew Congregation, and also Chairman of the Ponevez Gmilis Chesed. He has frequently visited Israel, and, in fact, in November and December, 1967, paid his most recent visit.



Mr. ISAAC STEIN

Isaac Stein, a champion wrestler and weightlifter who was a cattle dealer in Russia before becoming a scrap metal merchant and mining materials supplier.

G E F F E N , Irene

Antoinette (born Newmark), M.A., LL.B., first lady advocate to be admitted in South Africa (1923); daughter of the late Abel Newmark, J.P., Capetown. Gold Medalist in literature at the South African College in 1916; formerly Lecturer in Psychology and Education at the Witwatersrand University. Born in Capetown in 1897. Educated at the Good Hope Seminary and the S.A.



College, Capetown, and University College, London. Married to Max Geffen in 1921; has one child. Represents South Africa on the Committee of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship on Nationality of Married Women; Member of Executive of the National Council of Women of South Africa (Johannesburg Branch) and Chairman of its Laws and Suffrage Committee; Member of Executive of the Goodwill Club; Vice-President of the first Committee of the Students' Jewish Association at the S.A.C. in 1913. Published in 1928 "The Laws of South Africa Affecting Women and Children."

~~~~~  
Example from 1929 of one of the "regular" entries; Barney Horwitz, a merchant farmer from the Kimberley district.

**HORWITZ, Barney,** Merchant Farmer (Horwitz Bros.). Married to Pauline Stusser; has two children. Came to South Africa in 1898. Postal Address: P.O. Box 160, Kimberley.

Editors note: Barney and his wife Pauleen 'Polly' Horwitz became prominent members of the Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation in Kimberley. Polly was the first president of the Kimberley Branch of the Union of Jewish Women when it opened in 1946. The current chairman of the congregation is none other than 'Barney Horwitz', grandson of the Barney Horwitz in the 1929 Directory.

**KENTRIDGE, Morris,** Solicitor. Born in Lithuania, Russia, in 1881. Eldest son of Rev. Wolfe Kentridge (Kantrovitch), of Sunderland. Educated at Sunderland, England, and St. Andrews University, Scotland. Came to South Africa in 1901. Married in 1921 to May Schafner; has two sons. Member Legislative Assembly, Troyeville Division; Member of National Council of Labour Party; Executive Member of South African Zionist Federation; Trustee, Johannesburg Hebrew High School. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3831, Johannesburg.



An "important person", in this case Morris Kentridge, a noted attorney and member of parliament. His page is an example where the entries covered both Yearbooks; the 1929 entry at the top with the 1967/8 entry below.

## How to access the transcribed Year Books:

Jeremy has done a splendid job, making navigation of these treasure troves an easy and pleasing activity. Its possible you may find people you know, contained therein.

## Enjoy exploring these pages.

The Year Books can be accessed here:

<https://sajewry.blogspot.com/>

They are also listed at number 6 under 'Resources' on the CHOL website

[www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website)

~~~~~

Jeremy's father Lionel Hodes is not mentioned in the 1967/8 edition of the yearbook, as the family was living in London at the time where his father was working for the World Jewish Congress. However, he has a biographical sketch in the 1976/7 edition which we are pleased to include on the next page.

You can also read about Jeremy's father **Lionel Hodes (1924 – 2005)** and his experience in the Israeli War of Independence on the 'Memoirs' pages of the CHOL website: www.chol.website click [The Israeli War of Independence](#)

KENTRIDGE, Morris.

Died 1964. Parliamentary and Attorney. Born Lithuania 3rd February, 1881, son of Rev. W. Kantrovich. Educated in Sunderland, England, and St. Andrews University, Scotland. Came to South Africa in 1902 to join his father, who had meanwhile become Minister of the Vryheid Hebrew Congregation. Served articles in Law in Vryheid and qualified as an Attorney. Moved to Durban, where he played an active part in the Durban Jewish community and Durban civic affairs. Became a leading member of the Labour Party. Elected Member of the Natal Provincial Council in 1914, and Member of Parliament for Durban Central later that year. Moved to Johannesburg 1917; elected to City Council and became Chairman of Finance Committee. Elected Member of Parliament for Fordsburg in 1920, and for Troyeville 1924; re-elected M.P. for Troyeville in every subsequent election until he retired from Parliament in 1958. Left Labour Party in 1932 to join General Smuts in the South African Party; followed Smuts into Fusion and the United Party; became leading U.P. front-bencher; contributed significantly to framing progressive industrial legislation. Became leading Jewish spokesman in Parliament, opposing Quota Bill in 1930, as well as subsequent restrictions on Jewish immigration; took leading part in fight against anti-Semitic agitation during Hitler years. Played important role in the Zionist Movement here and overseas; was elected Vice-President of S.A. Zionist Federation. Championed workers' cause in Rand Strike of 1922 and other labour upheavals. Was a leading South African representative at overseas parliamentary conferences. Married May Schafner, 1921; three sons. Author of many pamphlets on labour policy in South Africa, and a book of memoirs, "I Recall" (1959).



HODES, Lionel Harris.

B.A. (Rand) L.L.B. (S.A.)

Born Somerset East,
17th March, 1924, son of
Leon Hodes. Educated
Beaufort West Primary
School, Worcester Boys'
High School, Witwaters-
rand University, UNISSA.
Senior Executive Sage
Holdings Ltd. Previously
General Secretary S.A.
Zionist Federation 1969-
73, Secretary International
Affairs Commission World
Jewish Congress, (based in



London) 1967-68, Public Relations Officer S.A. Jewish
Board of Deputies 1963-66, Editor "Jewish Affairs"
1951, Attorney, Notary, Conveyancer, in practice 1954-
1963. Vice-Chairman S.A. Zionist Federation. Past Chair-
man United Zionist Association. First Chairman Mahal
Association 1949, Member National Executive League for
Haganah 1948. Former Member National Council S.A.
Jewish Ex-Service League, National Council S.A. Jewish
Historical and Sociological Society, Former member Nat-
ional Council Zionist Socialist Party. Former Chairman
Information Committee Zionist Federation. Member
Economic Affairs Committee Assocom. Served World War
II 6th S. African Armoured Division Italy 1944-45,
Israel Army May 1948-May 1949. Married Ruth Levin,
11th April, 1956. Two sons, two daughters. Recreations:
Philately, Africana, Art, Reading, Languages. Awarded
title "Scholar" at Wits for Academic Distinction, Secretary
Students Representative Council. Chairman Students
Zionist Association. Editor University Newspaper.
Lectured extensively in Southern Africa and United
Kingdom. Regular Contributor to publications S.A.,
U.K. Israel. Attended numerous international confer-
ences. Add: 128 St. Georges Road, Observatory, Johan-
nesburg. P.O. Box 7755, Johannesburg.

KOPE, Godfrey Samuel, Stockbroker. Assoc. Inst. M.M. (London), B.Sc. (Mining) Cape. Born in Sydney, Australia, in 1887. Arrived in South Africa in 1900. Educated at Marist Bros. College, Johannesburg, and S.A. College, Capetown. Married in 1920 to Sophia Gould; has two children. Postal Address: P.O. Box 666, Johannesburg.



KORBF, Jacques, Diamond Manufacturer. Born in Libau in 1881. Educated at Libau and at Königsberg. Married to Sala Rothmann. Came to South Africa in 1923. Started negotiations with the Union Government for the establishing of diamond cutting industry in South Africa; the agreement has been ratified by both Houses of Parliament on 2nd June, 1928, and the first factory erected in Kimberley on the 3rd August, 1928, under the name of the South African Diamond Cutting Organisation, and in conjunction with Rosenstrauch Bros. Postal Address: P.O. Box 127, Kimberley.



KOSSUTH - SIERADZKI Hilda. Born in Kroonstad in 1882. Educated in South Africa and Brussels. Married in 1905 to Samuel A. Kossuth-Sieradzki; has four children. Ex-Committee Member of the Old Aged Home, Capetown; Treasurer of Jewish Board of Guardians, Capetown; Member of the National Council of Women, Capetown. Postal Address: Henenfold, Belmont Avenue, Capetown.



KOTTLER, Morris, Wholesale Merchant. Born in Kupeshek, Lithuania, in 1872, and educated there. Married in 1899 to Yetta Haller; has five children. Came to South Africa in 1906. Treasurer, Ophirton Hebrew Congregation, 1912-1917, and Vice-Chairman, Came to South Africa in 1906. Treasurer, Ophirton Talmud Torah; Chairman to Ophirton Hebrew Congregation, 1922-1927; at the time of the War, busied himself with the War Victims' Fund; takes interest in all communal affairs, especially in Hebrew Education; at present engaged in building up a Talmud Torah in Parktown. Postal Address: P.O. Box 3966, Johannesburg.

KOWARSKY, Noah, Produce and General Merchant. Born in Malat, near Vilna, Russia, in 1871. Educated at Vilna. Married in 1895, and has four children. Came to South Africa in 1896. Served on the following Committees: Board of Deputies, Witwatersrand Hebrew Benevolent Association, Shechita Board, and also served as Delegate on first Committee formed by Lord Milner in 1902 for granting permits to emigrants. Postal Address: 21 Empire Road, Parktown Johannesburg.

KOZINSKY, Abraham, Wholesale Tobacconist. Born in Poland in 1892, and educated there. Came to South Africa in 1921. Married in 1924 to Taube Silverfaden; has two children. Member of the Durban New Hebrew Congregation; Member of the Hebrew Order of David, F.C. Hollander Lodge. Postal Address: P.O. Box 1215, Durban; or 71 West Street, Durban.

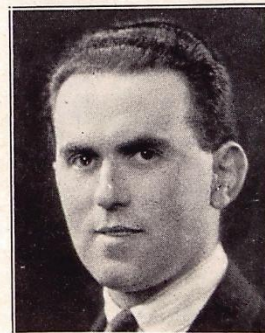
KRAMER, Leopold, Governing Director, Castle Wine and Brandy Co., Ltd., Director of Companies. Born in Courland in 1875. Educated at Odessa. Came to South Africa in 1894. Married in 1903 to Rose Weinberg; has four children. Patron and supporter of all Jewish and non-Jewish causes. Postal Address: P.O. Box 676, Capetown.

KRAMER, Morris, Managing Director, King Tanning Co., Ltd., Kingwilliamstown. Ex-President of Federated Chamber of Industries of South Africa. Born in Sassmacken, Courland, Russia, in 1881. Educated in Sassmacken and London. Arrived in South Africa in 1904. Married in 1916 to Phylis Hope Heyman; has four daughters. President, Kingwilliamstown Hebrew Congregation. Postal Address: Kingwilliamstown.



KRAMER, Robert, Merchant and Wool Broker. Born in Courland in 1853, and educated there. Married in 1878 to Jennie Blumberg; has six children. Came to South Africa in 1882. Committee Member of Talmud Torah, and ex-Committee Member of Gardens Synagogue, and Philanthropic Society, Capetown; one of the Founders of the Talmud Torah; also of the Lodge of Israel. Postal Address: P.O. Box 515, Capetown.

KRETZMAR, Noel, Physician and Surgeon. L.R.C.P.E., L.R.C.S.E., L.R.F.P. and S.G., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E. Educated at Boys' High School, Malmesbury, and Universities of Capetown, Edinburgh, and Paris. Member, S.A. and British Medical Associations and Edinburgh Alumni Association; Hon. Surgeon, Jewish Benevolent Society, Kimberley. Postal Address: 34 Carlington Road, Kimberley.



Page 345 from the 1929 directory surprisingly includes a listing for my father Noel Kretzmar, who had recently set up his medical practice in Kimberley. it was interesting to see the address where I was born. You will surely find some of your family members in these lists.

Naomi Rapeport Schamroth, a retired physician and historian who has researched the stories of South African Jewish soldiers in the Second World War for the Chaim Herzog Museum in Israel

These Year Book entries are very valuable as they give insight into the community. I used the 1965, 67/77 and 76/77 to find members of the community who served as soldiers in WWII. Of note is that some of the men gave limited information about their war service and some did not even mention that they were soldiers eg Cecil Margo in the 1976 edition never mentioned that he was a decorated pilot. A number of soldiers also refrained from mentioning that they were taken prisoner of war, possibly because they may have considered it as a stigma at that time. I encourage members of CHOL to utilise this resource when tracing out their families.

~~~~~

In his introduction to his 1967 Edition, Leon Feldberg expresses frustration. He says:

*There are departments of South African Jewish life where new policies are required, and others where a change in direction is necessary. It is not good enough for old-established institutions to continue functioning as they did a generation ago. Leadership must change and younger men with new ideas must be brought in to replace those who have been holding executive office for too many years. Communal resources should be devoted to causes that most require them and especially to Jewish education.*

*Hebrew congregations should ask themselves whether the trend to replace modest edifices with larger and more imposing houses of worship is justified. No good purpose is served by having grand synagogues which are full only three times a year but have little more than a handful of worshippers on Sabbath and cannot get a Minyan on a weekday. Money could more usefully be spent on building communal centres, with ample accommodation for women's and youth work, which would meet a vital need the whole year through.*

I know that several communities such as Springs and Bloemfontein, built huge edifices in the fifties and sixties that were often in the wrong place, because by then the congregation had moved and were quickly redundant as the communities dwindled and these premises had to be sold less than thirty years later. Congratulations to Jeremy on achieving this useful work which will aid all researchers into South African Jewish history

~~~~~

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**. see www.chol.website contact info@chol.website.

~~~~~

Check out: [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website) which now has on it:

- 60 [Communities](#)
- 67 [Memoirs](#)
- 197 original [Stories](#)
- 45 Videos of [Presentations](#)
- 27 [Newsletters](#)

Feel free to browse also the **resources** and **journal articles** on the CHOL website

~~~~~