

CHOL: Community History On-Line: Newsletter #30: Sept 2026

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In this issue:

1. **More stories posted!**
2. **Our Upcoming Series – 'Who Are We?'**

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More stories:

You are invited to browse through the selection of stories added in the last while. The latest ones are my own stories 'A Visit to Ponyevez', 'Hamsa, Hamsa' and about my uncle 'Arthur Loon'. Raymond Ellis has written 'My Israel' and Estelle Lewak Geva has written 'The Silver Screen and Me' about her love affair with films – that we will surely remember. There are 204 stories up on the website now! Just yesterday the story of Herbert Kretzmer, born in Kroonstad(!) by his daughter Danielle Kretzmer-Lockwood was posted. Go to the CHOL website www.chol.website and look for 'stories' and these should all be at the top. (My very favourite song of Herbert's is 'She' by Charles Aznavour)

https://youtu.be/ajjdY070VU4?si=olmJwCftxvQaX984.



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Our Next Series of Zoom Sessions: 'Who Are We?'

hosted by Gail Lustig

As we all know, the South African Jewish community has been through many different experiences from the end of the 19th Century to where we are spread around the world today.
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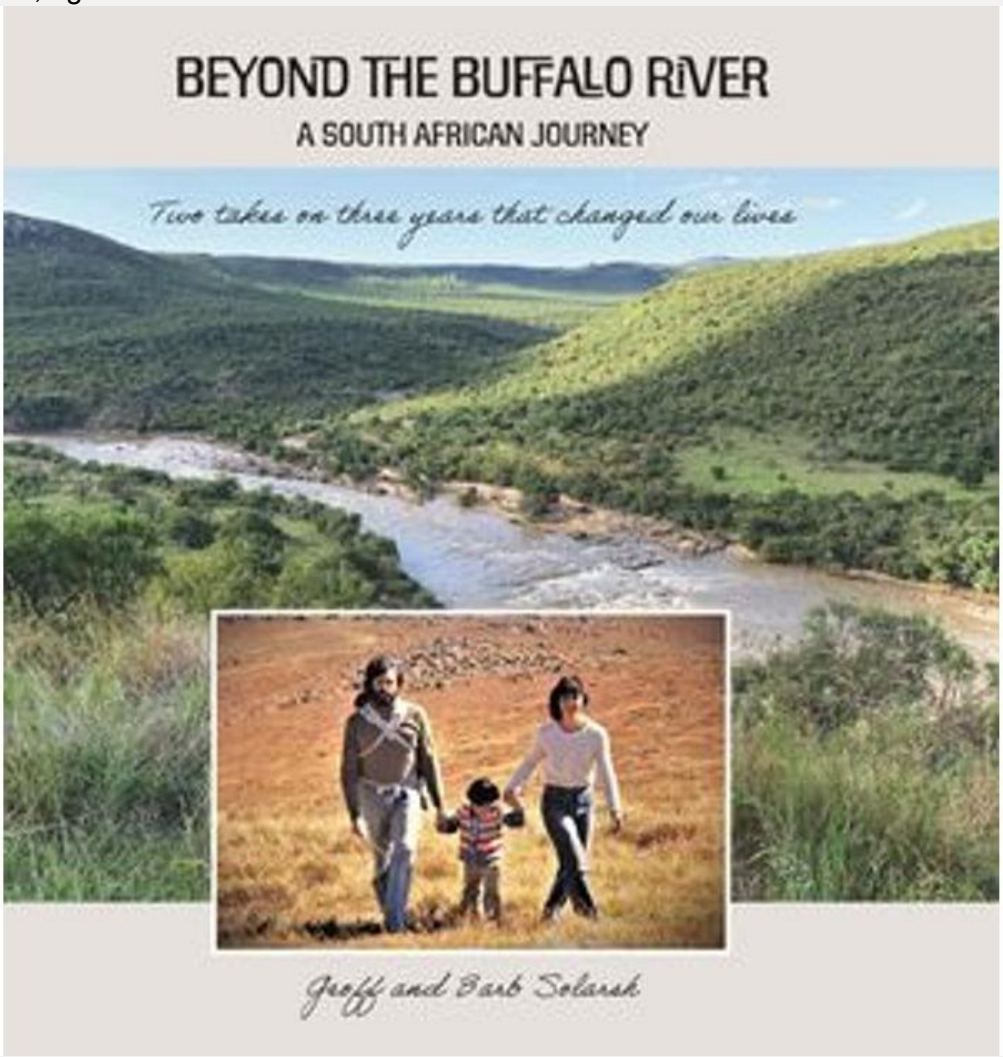
In our upcoming series of Zoom meetings, we will focus on getting to know our members better and hearing their personal stories**.** We've called the Series**: 'Who Are We?'** This initiative will include South Africans everywhere who have had lives of interest, self-discovery and creativity.

So, in October the new series will take off and extend through to mid- November with sessions presented by our fellows in **Australia and New Zealand**. Most South Africans are concentrated around Sydney and Melbourne, with a sizeable community also in Perth.

Until now, our CHOL presentations have not been comfortable for Australasians timewise so this series will hopefully make up for this and be more friendly!

We would be delighted if all our Australian participants, including the speakers, could help spread the word and encourage others to join. We hope this will ensure a strong Australian presence at these sessions and make our efforts to accommodate the Australian time zones worthwhile.

And so, to the nitty gritties: The table of the planned programme is attached. There are still some details that will be filled in nearer the time. The times of the meetings take into account the time differences and the clock moving forward and back. The presentations will be recorded for those unable to join, eg from America.



The first session – **13th October:** Geoff and Barbara Solarsh's book, 'Beyond the Buffalo River', their first combined effort, has recently been self- published. They have kindly offered to present their story of the time spent over a 3-year period when they lived and worked at a small rural hospital in KwaZulu-Natal which took them beyond the confines of their childhood communities and into the heart of a very different South Africa.

The zoom link to all these sessions is:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81104050877?pwd=YTlJTE13S2RUTC9oWEdXWVBncldWZz09

When	'Who Are We?'	UK	SA	Israel	Perth	Sydney/Melb	Auckland
13 Oct	Geoff & Barb Solarsh – from Melbourne	9:00	10:00	11:00	16:00	19:00	21:00
20 Oct	Two speakers - details pending	9:00	10:00	11:00	16:00	19:00	21:00
3 Nov	Robert Kaplan /Nat Conyer From Sydney	9:00	11:00	11:00	17:00	20:00	22:00
10 Nov	Jeremy Hodes, Beulah Gross and others convened by Marvin Cohen From Melbourne	9:00	11:00	11:00	17:00	20:00	22:00
17 Nov	The programme to be announced	9.00	11.00	11.00	17:00	20:00	22.00

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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 – connecting 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. CHOL Facebook Group

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www.chol.website now has on it:

- 63 Communities
- 69 Memoirs
- 204 original Stories
- 48 Videos of Presentations
- 29 Newsletters

Feel free to browse also the **resources** and **journal articles** on the CHOL website
(You may need to clear your cache or refresh your browser to see all the new material)

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Kaplan Centre JEWISH STUDIES

SAJM South African Jewish Museum
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