

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](#)

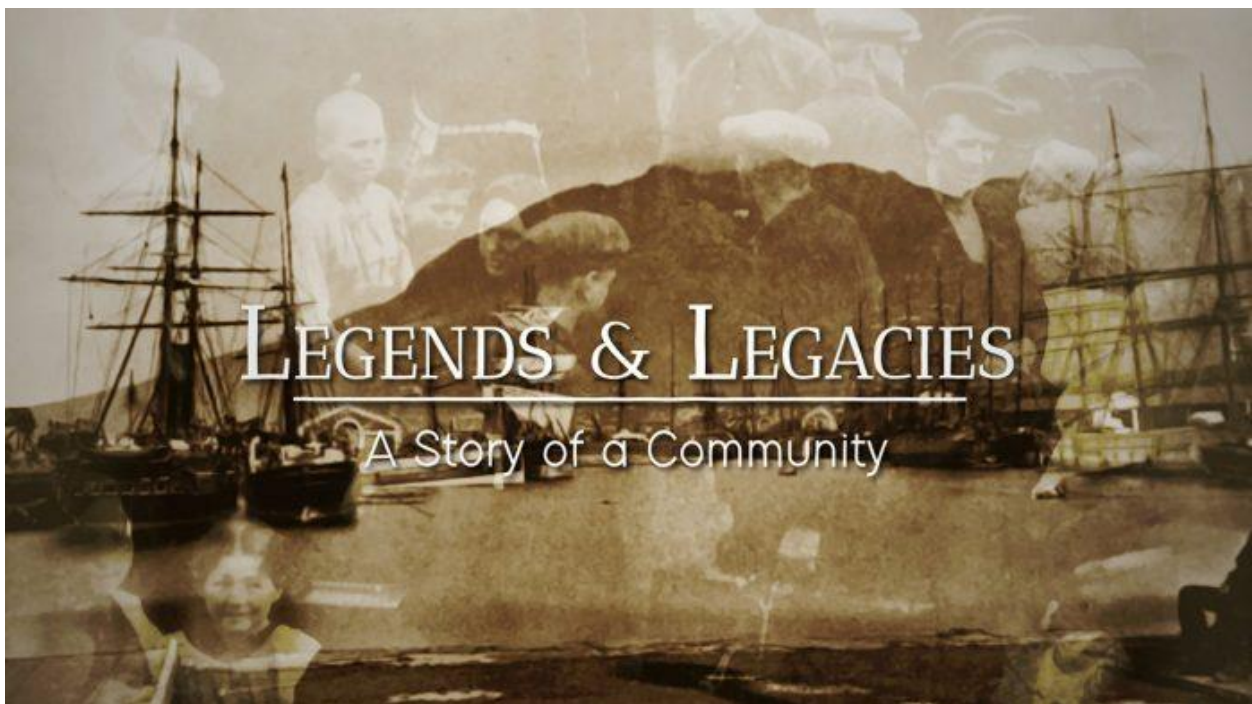
Community History On-Line Newsletter #4 2 April 2024

In this issue:

1. **Next CHOL Presentations: *Legends and Legacies*** 4 April **Artists and Entertainers**
2. **CHOL Web Updates: Sarembock Family, Ceres; The Medical Kayes' memoir; Share Your Stories 10 March; and Legacies recordings.**

Legends and Legacies Thurs 4 April 7.00pm SA time: **Artists and Entertainers**

For the last two weeks, we have been so enjoying the extraordinary images and commentary in the films produced by **Mark Wade** and researched and narrated by **Alan Swerdlow**.



This coming **Thursday, 4 April** at 7.00pm South African time, we will be focusing on outstanding **Artists and Entertainers** famed throughout the country and the world. (Please note that the UK and USA have moved to Summer-Time – but no change in South Africa, so check the time where you are. **If you have not already registered** send an email to info@chol.website to receive the registration link. **Please pass this information** to any friends who might be interested in CHOL and its activities. **Recordings** of these sessions will be (as all previous presentations are) available on the 'Presentations' page of www.chol.website

CHOL Web updates

We are always delighted when people who have been lovingly writing stories or family memoirs suddenly discover CHOL. They seem so relieved to find the ideal place to post their writings in a place where it is accessible to all who may be interested. All these, re-imagine the picture of Jewish life in Southern Africa in the 20th century. This month we have been pleased to post:



Louis and Elizabeth (Betsy) Sarembock – the story of Elizabeth de Winter born in Rotterdam in 1892, written by Milla Wolman, 16, Betsy's great-granddaughter in Sydney. Betsy came to South Africa with her family in 1906 aged 14. She met her husband-to-be the farmer Louis Sarembock when she was 17 and they married soon after and lived on his farm in the beautiful area of Ceres in the Western Cape. Louis Sarembock and his brothers Joseph and Jack were pioneers in the scientific growing of apples and other deciduous fruit in

South Africa. In the early 1900s, they imported fruit and fruit trees from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and California. They laid out their farms near Ceres and learned the methods of deciduous storage and marketing that set an example to other fruit farmers. It is largely thanks to them that Ceres became the largest producer and exporter of South African deciduous fruit. Sadly, Louis died suddenly in 1929. Betsy returned to Holland where she married again and was caught up in hiding there during WW2. This story, is now on the Ceres website navigable from the people page <https://www.chol.website/communities/ceres/people.htm>



Dr Solly Kaye (1922 – 2012) and family – A Family memoir by his daughter Dr Brenda Kerbel of Newton, Mass. Graduating from UCT in 1946, he started as a General Practitioner in District Six for 10 years. In 1960, he moved his practice to the family home in Vredehoek, Cape Town where, for decades to come, he devotedly treated patients from all over. Brenda, her older brother Trevor, as well as her husband, Richard Kerbel, also qualified in medicine at UCT.

Years later, her son, Russell, studied medicine in Boston. The memoir covers the unsettled period of brutal apartheid and army service in South Africa in the 1970s, that drove many young professionals to emigrate. She describes the great opportunities as well as the heartache and difficulties of so many of her generation at leaving ageing parents behind and of their own children growing up far from their loving grandparents. In the photo are the three generations of medics, Russell, Brenda and Solly. This story is on the Memoirs page. Read it here: [The Bus Stop Doctor](#)

In addition, we have received a family story of **Jewish life in Maraisburg** and also Geoffrey Boner is sending us many Roodeport family stories. Anthony Pamm has sent us the biography he has written of his father **Matthew Pamm** journalist, and Arts Critic of the Cape Times These will all go on www.chol.website in due course, when fully edited and illustrated.

Many thanks to **Bramie Lenhoff** in Delaware for creating and managing the CHOL website. He has made it very easy for us, by having a **'search' facility** on each page, so that by putting in a name or place or any other key word – all the stories or memoirs or presentations featuring this, will immediately come up.

Stories were Shared on 10 March – and listen again.



Five writers: in Atlanta Georgia; Johannesburg; Portland Oregon; San Francisco; and Cape Town got together on Zoom on 10 March to read their stories, with a distinct South African flavour, to a receptive forum of dozens of participants. The stories are:

Tokolosh by Linda Frysh; **The Jews of South Africa**, by Mark Wade; **The Letter** by Raphael Shevelev / read by Karine Schomer; **Some Days** by Jodi Neelin; **Stompie** by Harry Friedland / read by Gail Lustig. (Is this Stompie?)



To read and listen to these individual stories go to the stories page <https://chol.website/stories.htm> or click here [Stories](#) to listen to the whole presentation.

Gail writes: The invitation is still open for you to send us pieces you have written, now or in the past, that you'd like to share. We will post them on the site together with the splendid one hundred and twenty-seven stories already there, some of which you can also hear read aloud by the authors. I am always happy to discuss your writing with you and am contactable at gail@chol.website

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Please keep us informed of your own 'Community History On-Line' activities and interests.

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CHOL Newsletter no 4, compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London February 2024, comes to you with every good wish for calm and peace in a troubled world.

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

- 47 communities - also resources and journal articles etc
- 35 Memoirs
- 127 original stories
- 27 Videos of presentations

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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 – 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](http://www.chol.website) contact [info@chol.website](mailto:info@chol.website).



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South African Jewish Museum