

Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter #51, 15 September 2022

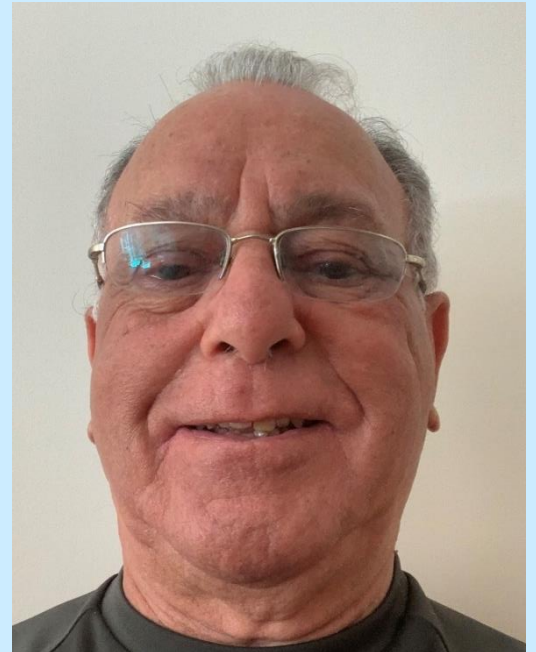
A New Kimberley Project Where have we all gone?

Compiled by Leon Chonin Toronto September 2022

Kimberley Ex-Pat Youth Migration Patterns

I have taken this opportunity once again to prepare a newsletter, not only to renew my contact with everyone but also to let you all know of the new project that I initiated some two months ago. I am seeking your help and participation in gathering information about the whereabouts of all our former friends and colleagues from Kimberley.

I have enjoyed participating in preserving the history of the Kimberley Jewish community on the Kehilalinks website and hope my new project will add another important chapter in our history.



It has always been my goal to document the emigration of the Jewish community of Kimberley, not only for future research but also to track what happened to the young people of Kimberley and where they have settled.

It is common knowledge that many left for the larger Jewish communities in Cape Town and Johannesburg, for further education or to widen their contacts. There were those who emigrated to the predominantly English-speaking countries of North America, England and Australia and also those who embarked on Aliyah to Israel.

I did in the past appeal to the broader ex-pat Jewish community to provide me with information of their journey from Kimberley to their current place of residence, but unfortunately no one has ever responded. As my final project for the Kimberley website, I am trying once again to appeal to all current and former Jewish residents of Kimberley who lived in the city or in the surrounding areas of Griqualand West during the period of around 1940 to around 1970 to please provide me with their information.

During my research into the business and professional activities of the Kimberley Jewish community very few people collaborated with me but when the project was published, those who were critical of my appeal for information, or who ignored it, were the first to

complain that their family members had not been included – or that the information was inaccurate!

I attach the table that I have prepared from my own memory, of those I could recall of what happened to them after leaving Kimberley. It is far from complete but at least serves as an illustration of the final project.

This is your chance to see that I get it right. Please open the attached table and check if you are listed and if the information is complete and correct. If not – please email me the information so that I can compile a useful table. It is, of necessity, still a work in progress, and I look forward to hearing from you with your information that I can add to it.

Although I have specified a time period it is not cast in concrete as the research is trying to focus on the youth who were resident in Kimberley during its golden days when the Jewish population reached its peak, and where the community had the benefit of a full range of Jewish support structures. The intention of this research is to document for yourself and also for those for whom you have the information:

1. **The name**
2. **Parents names**
3. **Year left Kimberley and age**
4. **City of residence** after leaving Kimberley and current city of residence
5. **Your reasons for leaving Kimberley**
6. **Reasons for leaving South Africa**
7. **Business, trade or professional activity** after leaving Kimberley and after leaving South Africa
8. **Alive or Deceased**

With the decreasing Jewish population in South Africa, it will also provide much needed analysis of why the Jewish community chose to emigrate and the countries they selected as their new home. It will also serve as a reference for former Kimberley ex-pats of what happened to their school friends. I have obviously not been able to determine the reasons for leaving Kimberley and for emigration which I hope I will be able to gather from all your participation. In order to be able to summarize the reasons I would appreciate if everyone could select one of the following reasons:

1. **Business or job opportunity**
2. **Attended a tertiary educational institution abroad**
3. **Unstable political, economic, or social climate in South Africa**
4. **Government policy towards Israel, Zionism and its impact on antisemitism**
5. **Joining family who had already emigrated**
6. **Retired to a more tranquil environment**

7. Chose to go on Aliyah

8. Other (please elaborate in just a few words)

Please respond to my email address: chonin@rogers.com

I have so far been able to identify 201 ex-pat Kimberley youth and five Uppington and two De Aar Jewish school boys who lived at the boarding schools in Kimberley. I am missing much of the details and appeal to all the ex-pat community to help me fill in the gaps. I am also certain that I have missed many people, so I am relying on everyone to check the list and provide me with complete and accurate data.

The statistics I have been able to establish so far, based upon roughly 158 known outcomes, is that the vast majority of ex-pats Kimberley youth have left South Africa with only about 37% remaining. As expected, the two countries with the greatest ex-pat Kimberley youth are in Australia and the United States. Only about 10% chose Aliyah about the same as those residing now in Canada.

I have been having difficulty making contact with anyone who knows of the whereabouts or has contact information for the following former Kimberley ex-pats:

1. Garsh sisters, Jill and Brenda
2. Leslie Brenner in Israel and his sister Beverley in Australia
3. Brenda Geller in Australia
4. Fay Goldberg in Israel
5. David Goldberg in Australia
6. Anita Kaplan
7. Mavis Milwidsky (nee Shein) in Israel
8. Leslie Talmud
9. Tuch sisters, Barbara and Majorie

I am hopeful that with all the ex-pat participation in this research, more data will be collected but I doubt it will fundamentally change the statistical outcomes.

In closing, I wish you all a Shana Tova U'metuka and a meaningful fast with your families. May we all be inscribed in the book of life for another healthy and peaceful year.

Kindest regards

Leon Chonin

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Toronto, September 2022.

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