

History of the Kimberley Branch of the Union of Jewish Women

Compiled by **Beryl Kretzmar** up to August 1986

Found and typed up by researcher Karen Kallman

Expanded by **Geraldine Auerbach**, with transcriptions of newspaper articles and pictures from collections of **Helen Brown** and **Beryl Kretzmar** – supplied by me (Beryl's daughter Geraldine) and by **Delia Benn**, eldest daughter of **Helen Brown** (née Maresky)



Although the Kimberley branch no longer exists, Kimberley is extremely proud that the current National President of the UJW is Kimberley girl, Myra Goldenbaum (pictured left)

The Founding

In 1938 **Sara Sloman** visited Kimberley to discuss the formation of a Union of Jewish Women. An informal tea was given by Mrs **Bessie Stoller** in her home at which Mrs Sloman discussed the work of a Union of Jewish Women. All present were in favour although nothing was done until 19 March, 1939, when a public meeting of our Jewish women was arranged at the Dean's Hall. Mrs **Toni Saphra**, then National President, addressed the meeting and at that meeting our branch came into being. We have minutes of this Inaugural Meeting which makes interesting reading.

A very satisfactory audience of 65 women attended the inaugural meeting on Sunday 19th March for the formation in Kimberley of a Branch of the Union of Jewish Women. We were fortunate to have as our speaker Mrs Toni Saphra, South African President, whose great enthusiasm and informative address kindled a real desire in the hearts of everyone present, to have a Branch in Kimberley that would prove worthy of the high ideals of the organisation.

Mrs Saphra was welcomed by Mrs **J.M. Bayer**, who kindly consented to take the Chair for the Inaugural meeting. We are indebted to her for the competent manner in which she did so. Mrs Bayer gave a resume of Mrs Saphra's activities after which Mrs Saphra outlined the history of the Union and explained its Constitution.

Mrs Saphra emphasized that the Union of Jewish Women was not merely another society. It was, she said, a joining together of all Jewish Women or organisations representing every phase of Jewish life. She traced the history of the desire for this Union to the time, 150 years ago, when the Jews in Central and Western Europe were emancipated and the Jewish women began to emerge into freedom and realise their handicaps in education and equality with men of their race.

Toni Saphra explained that after the formation of active Unions in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Bloemfontein, the SA Union of Jewish Women, with headquarters in Johannesburg and with herself as first President, came into being in October 1936. She then explained each clause of the Constitution in detail and followed her address by appealing to the newly formed Union to make their first task the sponsoring of a local campaign for the Joint Emergency Fund for Refugees and Orphan-Oze.

Mrs van der Heim proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Saphra, stressing that there had never been more need than the present time for Jewish Women to present a united front.

Mrs **Polly Horwitz** was proposed as first chairman by Mrs **Bessie Stoller** and was seconded by **Mrs van der Heim**. Mrs Horwitz said she would do her best to make the Union successful not only in its own sphere of work, but also a driving force in the communal life of Kimberley. Mrs **Nancy Marcus** was elected Vice-Chairman. The Committee, all duly proposed and seconded, comprised 16 members: - Mesdames **Betty Levinsohn, Freda Barnett, Ruth Broude, Bessie Stoller, Beryl Kretzmar, J. Hotz, A Friedberg, H van der Haim, J.M Bayer, Helen Brown, Kate Friedman, S. Horwitz, A Goldberg, Ray Allen, Hilda Hendler** and **Miss B Stein**. Mrs **Nan Sagar** and Mrs **Tilly Price** were elected joint Secretaries and Treasurers.

All the women present signified their intention of enrolling as members. It was announced that subscriptions would be 5/- per year and an appeal was made for an early payment of subscription as the Union would need ready funds. Tea was provided by various members.

1939-1944

Our first meeting was addressed by Mr **Harold Sagar** representing B.E.S.I. explaining the National Emergency Service and it was unanimously resolved that the Union of Jewish Women as a body offer their services to the Mayoress for National Emergency Service. Most of this period our Branch was actively concerned with War work. Groups joined SAWAS doing canteen duties, others joining sewing groups and knitting groups. Our fund raising was mainly for war funds. In minutes we see too, that fortnightly dances were held at the School room for soldiers which were very well patronised. The conveners were **Sadie David** and **Hilda Hotz** and two different women were in charge each time. Gifts were given to Jewish soldiers leaving for the North. Much interest was given to Youth Aliyah work and prisoner of war work. In 1942 we were affiliated to the NCW and we were already represented on other local bodies and assisting in many ways. During this period a successful interim Executive meeting off the National Organisations was held in Kimberley. In 1943 a Bohemian Cabaret was arranged for War Funds which was a social event in the City. The Newspaper cutting (not available) reads; "As a result of the recent **Bohemian Cabaret** organised by the Kimberley Branch of the Union of Jewish Women in aid of War Funds, the following amounts have been allocated: -

£50 Navy League	£50 War Research Dep. of Hebrew University
£25 General Smuts Birthday Fund	£20 Medical Aid for Russia
£36 Prisoner of War Adoption Fund	£10 Talbot House
£10 St. John Fund	£10 Red Cross General Fund
£10 S.A.W.A.S	£10 Cape Corps Gifts and Comforts
£5 Regional Committee	
A total of £236	

1945-1947

Mrs **Fanny Brown** – was the next chairman, Mrs **R Bloom** – Secretary and Treasurer

During this period our work continued actively. A separate I.V.A. Committee was established from members of the Kimberley Women's Zionist League (KWZL) and members of the Union of Jewish Women (UJW). This Committee started catering to raise funds, and was organised by Mrs **Fanny Brown**. Apart from socials and teas our minutes reveal **card evenings, bazaars, monthly cake sales, jumble sales**.

A Play Reading Circle was started by Mrs **Betty Levinson** which remained very popular for many years. In 1946 Mrs **Fanny Brown** and Mrs **Anne Haberfeld** were elected to the Synagogue Committee, the first women to have this status. During this time our **cookery book** was published:

Geraldine Auerbach writes about this book in 2020:



Shortly after the war, the Kimberley UJW produced a cookbook – to support the South African Jewish war appeal. It was called '**Favourite Home-Tried Recipes**'.

In her forward, the UJW President Sara Sloman, was moved to say that 'one is perhaps struck by the contrast between the well-being of the housewife who can afford to choose at leisure, varied and palatable dishes – and the dire hunger of the starving thousands of our people in devastated Europe'.

In this book must surely contain remembered tastes of Kimberley. The names of the cooks are some of those already mentioned above. There is **Ann Frank**'s cold beetroot soup, **Hannah Frank**'s gefilte fish; **Ruth Broude**'s sweet and sour herring. There is Mrs **G Sussman**'s Prune Chimas, Mrs **Y Sachs** Tomato Bredie and Mrs **D Lurie**'s Pizze (which in this case was brawn).

There were pickles, sauces and salads and hot and cold puddings. The delicious cakes and biscuits included **Lily Jawno**'s cheesecake, **Fanny Brown**'s Ginger Sponge and Ann **Haberfeld**'s Viyotas – some sort of cupcakes). It even contained a recipe for **Stella Weinberg**'s famous fudge, and an anonymous recipe for taglach. Surely all priceless today!

There were also household tips such as, how to freshen stale buns. (Dip them in milk and heat in the oven, butter while hot!) I remember my children bursting out laughing when reading some of these recipes which said: '**Have the vegetables peeled and chopped**'. (It might have been from another such book, but only in South Africa!)

1948-1950

Mrs **R Bloom** – Chairman, Mesdames **Minnie Gershowitz**, **Bessie Stoller** and **Betty Levinsohn** – Secretaries, Mrs **Bertha Segal** – Treasurer.

Our work continued to progress. We were still doing Hospital visiting and assisting all branches of the Kimberly Community by giving service and donations. We also continued to help our Jewish Community and our Women's Zionist League and our Hebrew Education Committee.

1951-1952

Mrs **Bertha Segal** – Chairman. Mrs **R Bloom** – Secretary
Good work continued in all spheres.

1953-1954

Mrs **Fanny Brown** was again elected to the Chair. In 1954 a Sub-Committee was formed and convened by Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar**

THE KIMBERLEY BRANCH OF THE UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

In this picture we see Beryl Kretzmar the new Chairman, (left) and Pearl Tooch, the secretary on the right. I am not sure who the middle ladies are.



This Committee aimed at helping Native and Coloured school children with schoolbooks and library books. Books were given to libraries at the Bantu Centre, Barkly School, Greenpoint and William Pescod Schools. New textbooks were purchased for Junior and Senior Certificate pupils at the Barkly Road School and Greenpoint. These books were loaned to pupils for 2-year periods after which they could be loaned again to other needy pupils.

1955-1958

Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar** – was Chairman (except for 1 month – February 1957 when Mrs **J Cohen** was Chairman). Mrs **Pearl Tooch** – Secretary. Mrs **Betty Levinsohn** – Treasurer.



The caption of the picture above which shows **Betty Levinsohn** and Mrs **M Smo** says: Annually the Union of Jewish Women hand out feed parcels to those who attend their soup kitchens in the Floors and in Colville. Those pictures were among members who assisted in distribution tea coffee, condensed milk, soap, jam, jellies, canned fruit and sweets.

Beryl reported that in March, 1955 the **Interim Executive Meeting of the National Body** was held in Kimberley. **Toni Saphra** the founding and Hon Life President of UJW was the guest of honour. Our members worked very hard to make this a memorable occasion. We entertained Headquarters and delegates from sixteen different branches. The meeting lasted all week and was most successful. Our branch was congratulated by Headquarters and all who attended for the efficient manner in which the meeting was organised.



In the picture above, from the Diamond Fields Advertiser of 28 March 1955, under the heading 'Leaders of the Union of Jewish Women' the caption is: Mrs **N Kretzmar (Beryl)** chairman of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women of Southern Africa, with Mrs T Saphra, founder and hon life president of UJW at the opening of the recent conference in Kimberley.

In the UJW annual publication, this National Meeting in Kimberley was reported thus:

In **March 1955, Kimberley, as the venue** for the Interim Executive Meeting, was palpitating with the bustle of preparation. Whilst many delegates packed their bags with apprehensive of 'insufferable heat' and boarded trains with stoic resignation, the Kimberley branch ably guided by its new chairman Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar**, waited to receive And receive it did with traditional cordial friendship and even cool weather.

The three days of deliberations made their impact on the Kimberley branch. The revealing reports, the high levels of discussion, the sparkling personalities and smartness of the women all combined to produce tremendous stimulation amongst the Kimberley women. The effect on a small branch of accommodating such a meeting is considerable and lasting in value, and Headquarters would do well to hold all its Interims amongst country branches.

Social gatherings were held in April and June. The programmes were planned to impart information and variety and included Newsletters. Articles about the Hebrew University, "A Moment in Time" and an address on "Women's Organisations" by Councillor Iris Holloway. To raise funds a novel Bal was held in July entitled '**Bal Tabarin**' and featured a splendid French floor show. Members invited many non-Jewish dancers to join their parties and this ensured a capacity crowd and promoted much goodwill. Altogether high spirits prevailed, and good results were obtained.

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The Social Welfare Sub-Committee of the Branch continues its good work. This has lately been confined to two special groups, the **Bantu Social Centre** which is being erected location by all the local Welfare Organisations and the Kimberley branch of the **SA Blood Transfusion Service**.

Members have undertaken to supply books for an educational lending library. As a result 20 African boys and girls have already been provided with the prescribed Matric and JC books and have thus been able to continue their studies. The group has also donated hundreds of books of all kinds to the general library.

For the Blood transfusion services a volunteer Has been attending every afternoon for the past 2-3 years assisting the technicians mainly with clerical work, which is much appreciated.

In 1956 our Branch was registered as a Welfare Organisation. When Mrs **R Bloom** left Kimberley at this time, after serving on our Branch in an executive position practically all the years, we paid tribute to her by making her an Honorary Life Member.

An important development was the starting of our own project in February 1956. **A soup kitchen for the infirm and aged coloured people at the Floors Township.** This was opened by the Mayoress Mrs. E.O. Davis and was convened by Mrs **Pearl Tooch** and Mrs **P Aarons**. Soup was served twice every week from April until the end of November. We had about 200 people receiving soup and found the work very gratifying. The City Council allowed us to use the kitchen of their office and the Cripple Care Home nearby gave us facilities for cooking the soup. Since 1958 the City Council has given our Branch an Annual street collection for the running of this kitchen.

During this period "**Founders Day Celebration**" came into being – this is celebrated in any suitable manner. In 1956 our Branch entertained 100 old ladies from Kimberly institutions to a Variety afternoon tea – this was a real Highlight. Mrs Doron, wife of the Consul General for Israel at that time was our Guest Speaker.

In the picture below, from the Diamond Fields Advertiser, Mrs Doron, (right) wife of Mr G Doron,



Consul-General for Israel, addressed a recent gathering (Founder's day celebration) about Jewish women in Israel. **Beryl Kretzmar** chairman of the UJW is in the centre. (I don't know who the women on the left is). (At this function the founder of the Kimberley branch **Polly Horwitz** was honoured. She held office for the first six years and has always been vitally interested in the affairs of the branch.)

In 1957 our Celebration took the form of an Oneg Shabbat for our Hebrew School Children. A mid-year social function, a feature of our activities is still being held every year and is always something novel.



In the picture above, from the Diamond Fields Advertiser we see **Sybil Perel** (left) **Beryl Kretzmar** (centre) and probably a guest from elsewhere at a UJW function with beautiful table décor

1959-1960

Mrs **Sadie David** – Chairman, Mrs **Bertha Segal** -Secretary (took over from Mrs **Pearl Tooch** in 1957). Mrs **Betty Levinsohn** – Treasurer.

During this period, we have been actively involved in all aspects of our work. We have made no special mention of this History of detailed general activities – these are taken in our stride and have gone on all the time since our Branch was formed. We will just list a few.

1. We work with and help many **Kimberley organisations** such as NCW, The Cripple Care, The Child Welfare, Nazareth House, The Mental Health Society, Kimberley Benevolent Society and many others.
2. Frequent other calls are made to us for time to time, we try to cope with all, and no call goes unanswered.
3. **Cultural Meeting and socials** with interesting speakers have been arranged throughout the years and also special Goodwill Meetings.
4. We have had particularly the first few years **frequent visits from Headquarters** and also from our National Organiser. These visits are very stimulating and are much appreciated.
5. We have been actively engaged in **helping our own community** wherever possible and have worked and been closely associated with the Kimberley Women's Zionist League in every sphere of their work.
6. We have **sent delegates** regularly to conferences and Interim Meetings.

7. We have met all our **commitments to Headquarters**, including our yearly contributions to the Parasitology Laboratory in Israel which is supported by the Union of Jewish Women of Southern Africa. This laboratory has done invaluable work on tropical diseases for the whole of the Middle East.
8. We also participate in the **Toni Saphra Bursary Fund**. A scholarship is given every year to a deserving student irrespective of race, colour or creed, for the purposes of extra study to enable them to help their own people.

This is just a brief resume of the work done in Kimberley in the past twenty-one years. You will notice that although Committee members have changed throughout the years, some have fallen out and come back again, there are a few stalwarts who are still on the Committee and have done some wonderful work. There is still much to be done in the future and we are hoping that many of our younger women will join our numbers, pick up the threads and carry on from where we leave off.

A highlight off this time was a **Symposium on "The Family"** organised by Mrs **Helen? Brown** to publicise the family year. Mrs Pinchuk conducted the Forum and seven speakers presented their views on the family. At least 200 men and women attended this function at the Communal Hall on the evening off July 29 1960.

The history of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women was prepared and read by **Beryl Kretzmar** at our 21st birthday celebrations which took the form of a Women's Luncheon at the Communal Hall on the 30th April, 1960. Approximately 150 women were present. Guest of honour were the (Jewish) Mayoress – Mrs **Lily Jawno**, Deputy Mayoress – Mrs I Holloway, President of the National Council of Women – Mrs. **Helen Brown** and National President of the Union of Jewish Women – Mrs Pearl Mandelstam, who was our Guest Speaker.

Chairladies of all Kimberley Women's Organisations were also the guests of our Branch. This function was an unforgettable occasion and those present were very proud of the wonderful record of work done and made us all realise in what high esteem the work of the Union of Jewish Women in held by all Kimberley citizens.



In this picture from **December 1960** the caption is Mrs **Pearl Toooh** (left) recently elected chairman of the Union of Jewish Women, Kimberley branch, is seen with Mrs Sylvia Nell of Johannesburg (Centre) and the cultural convenor of the union, Mrs **Helen Brown**.

1961-1962

Mrs **Pearl Tooch** – Chairman. Mesdames **P Aarons** and **Bertha Segal** – Secretaries. Mrs **C Mohl** – Treasurer.

On Mrs. Mandestam's recommendation our Study Group was started. Mrs Pinchuk, the national chairman of Adult Education came down to address us and a sub-committee for this purpose was formed. Mrs (Rebetsin) **Leah Werner**, Mrs **Helen Brown** and Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar** organised various cultural activities. The Study Group met once every two weeks and was enjoyed by the few who attended regularly. During this period "Book Month" was inaugurated to conform with a request from Headquarters.

During this period our regular work continued to prosper. Another very successful Founders Day Celebration was held and the older members of the community were again entertained. A very successful dance was organised by the Chairman and this was an outstanding social event.

Since this period children from the Mentally Retarded School have been entertained every year. The Jewish children attending the school for the Physically Handicapped are also looked after and entertained by the Union of Jewish Women members.

Besides carrying on with our usual program, our members started taking an interest in the National Feeding Scheme by helping on Mondays and Tuesdays with the making of sandwiches and by substantial financial assistance.

1963

Mrs **Sadie David** – Chairman. Mrs **Segal** – Secretary. Mrs **Marie Datnow** – Treasurer.



In this picture from the end of 1963, the caption is: The Chairman of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women, Mrs **Stella Levinsohn**, (second left) with left to right Mrs **Dorothy Finberg**, second vice president, the immediate past president

Sadie David and the first vice president **Helen Brown**

During this year our usual activities have been carried out successfully. Our Branch was asked to associate itself with the **Red Cross Society and the Anti T.B. Society** who were both having a National Appeal for funds. Our Union decided to organise a **Dinner Dance** for this purpose, and this was held on 13th July at the Communal Hall. This function proved a great success and over £100 was presented to each of the above mentioned societies.

Our Branch continues to do good work all round. All charitable organisations are given service and financial help. Our Zionist League is always well supported.

As we approach our 25th Anniversary, we sincerely hope that this fine record of work and progress will be maintained in the future. The old stalwarts who have been on the Committee since the formation are getting a little tired and it is hoped that the young generation will not let us down but will step into the Branch and continue this wonderful work. "A little time spent on others less privileged, is time well spent."

1964

In 1964, Mrs **Helen Brown** – was Chairman, except for the first two months when Mrs **Stella Levinson** occupied this position.



In this picture from 1964 we see **Stella Levinsohn** (centre) with the Acting mayoress left, the (Jewish) **Natalie Sussman** (née Kroll), and the national vice president of the UJW Mrs Judith Pinchuk of Johannesburg.

This year our Branch celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a Goodwill Luncheon at the Horseshoe Motel. Heads of all Women's organisations were present, and an enjoyable function took place. Their first president **Polly Horwitz** was honoured

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The caption to this picture says: The first president on the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women, Mrs **Polly Horwitz**, was among the honoured guests at a luncheon arranged in celebration of the 25 years the branch has been in existence. (left to right: Mrs **Julie Jacobson**, secretary, Mrs Horwitz; Mrs **Marie Datnow**, treasurer; and Mrs **Helen Brown**, Chairman and Vice President of the national board.



In this picture above, from 1964, we see the lovely **Lorraine David** (née Hendler) centre flanked by Mrs **Basil (Shirley) Benjamin** (left) and Mrs **SJ Smo**. They were responsible for the annual UJW ball which was deemed a masterpiece, specially for the hall and table décor.

1964 During this year Mrs. **Beryl Kretzmar** and Mrs. **Betty Levinsohn**, both foundation members with 25 unbroken years of service on the Committee, were made Honorary Life Vice-Presidents of the Kimberley Branch and presented with Goodwill certificates.

November 1964-1966

In November 64 Mrs **Althea Kretzmar** and Mrs **Hannah Frank** – were the Joint Chairmen.

An article that accompanied the picture below in **November 1964** on 'Judy's page' in the DFA, said:



In this picture from November 13 1964, the caption is: The joint Chairmen of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women for the new year (front, Mrs **Althea Kretzmar** (left) and Mrs **Hannah Frank** with (at the back from left to right) immediate past chairman Mrs **Helen Brown** who has become vice Chairman Mrs **Miriam Simons** regional

vice president from Heilbron and the treasurer of the local branch, Mrs **Marie Datnow**.

The article in the DFA that accompanied the picture stated:**ANNUAL MEETING OF JEWISH WOMEN** 'The Union of Jewish Women has a grave responsibility today. in conjunction with the Board of Deputies, we are the official mouthpiece of Jewish women of this country', said the retiring chairman of the Kimberley branch of the union, Mrs **Helen Brown**, at the annual meeting. Recalling the origins in 1939, Mrs Brown paid tribute to the first president Mrs **Polly Horwitz** and her committee who had set a high standard of service which became a pattern for the future.

'The 25 years that followed,' she continued 'have been a chronicle of solid endeavour and achievement in all its main activities: the promotion of Jewish life and culture in the community, welfare service amongst all sections, projects in Israel and the forging of goodwill amongst the many and varied elements of our society.' 'Through a well-balanced programme we reach all sections of the city. We have earned a reputation built on goodwill and service. We must make every effort to maintain our ideals and relations with those around us.'

Activities

Tracing these for the year Mrs Brown mentioned that Mrs **Bertha Segal**, Mrs **Hilda Hotz** and Mrs **Tilly Price**, all of whom were leaving Kimberley, had been presented with goodwill certificates in recognition of their services. Mrs **Betty Levinsohn** and Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar**, foundation members who had served the branch faithfully for 25 years were presented with similar certificates. She recalled the silver jubilee celebration luncheon which over 80 women representing all women's organisations plus members of the union enjoyed. The annual ball was a masterpiece, especially the décor of the hall for which Mrs **Lorraine David** and Mrs **Shirley Benjamin** were responsible.



Play-reading

During the year it was decided to revive play-reading. Mrs **Ann Frank** was in charge of this side of the activities. Mrs Brown concluded by offering the congratulations of the branch to Mrs **Julie Jacobson** on becoming secretary of the Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation saying, 'We hope that she will find satisfaction in this work, and we know she will be an important asset to the community

In this picture above, from **1966**, the caption is: The National President of the Union of Jewish Women in Southern Africa, Mrs Pearl Mandelstam (centre) was guest speaker at the recent annual meeting of the Kimberley Branch of the organisation. She is seen here with Mrs **Althea Kretzmar** (left) and Mrs **Hannah Frank**. Mrs Kretzmar and Mrs Frank have been co-chairman for the past two years.

Good work continued in all spheres. Our donations to all Kimberly organisations increase all the time. Our service to other societies is always appreciated. In July **1965 and 1966** hospitality in certain members' homes was organised for seventeen children from the Cape Town Jewish Orphanage for three weeks.



The caption to this picture above, from the DFA on 8 December 1966 says: Earlier this week, members of the Union of Jewish Women handed out Christmas parcels to those who attend the soup kitchen run by the organisation in the Floors township. Surrounded by an eager crowd, our photographer found, from right to left, Mrs **B Klevansky**, Mrs **Grace Klein**, Mrs **C Brown**, Mrs **C Leibenthal**, and Mrs **Helen Brown**. Mrs Liebenthal is Convenor of the Soup Kitchen.

In March 1966, UJW organised a major exhibition at the William Humphreys Art Galley

The caption for the picture below about the exhibition, says: Seen preparing for the exhibition, to opened tonight by Mr Aleck Goldberg, public relations officer of Jewish Board of Deputies, were (left to right) Mrs R Ellion, Mrs Harold (Helen) Brown and Mrs Bennie (Fanny) Brown. Mrs Elion and Mrs Benny Brown are responsible for a display of plants trees and spices mentioned in the bible, while Mrs Helen Brown who is seen admiring a cloth on which the emblems of the 12 tribes of Israel are depicted, is convenor of the Adult Education Committee of the local branch of the Union of Jewish Women.



The adjoining article says: Tonight will see the opening of an extremely interesting exhibition arranged by the local branch of the Union of Jewish Women to bring home the importance of the bible throughout the world.

Local people have responded magnificently to an appeal for bibles and biblical items and visitors to the opening are promised an exceptionally interesting evening.

As well as bibles from many parts of the world, there is to be a display of flowers, plants, spices and trees mentioned in the Bible.

Stamps depicting biblical figures will be on display, as well as a wide variety of bibles in many different languages.

There is to be a special section for bibles published in African languages. The organisers have asked me to emphasize that the public of Kimberley will be most welcome at the opening of this exhibition, which will remain open for one week only.

1967-1968

Mrs **Helen Brown** and Mrs **Eve Horwitz** became the Joint Chairmen

Here on the right we see the Joint Chairmen, **Eve Horwitz** seated left and **Helen Brown** right. Behind them is Mrs Jeanette Cohen, head of the Welfare Section of the National body of the Union of Jewish Women. They were photographed at the annual meeting of the Kimberley branch.



The caption for the picture left from the Diamond Fields Advertiser of August 23 1968 says: The mayoress, Mrs JP Smit, assisted Mrs **Helen Brown** and Mrs **Eve Horwitz**, who are co-chairmen of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women, to draw lucky ticket numbers at a tea party which the Union arranged in celebration of Founders Day. Guests at the affair were Kimberley's older folk. Miss P Louw, a member of the Senior's Club, which is sponsored by Kimberley's Rotary Anns, was among the winners. (Left to right. Mrs (Helen) Brown, Miss Louw, Mrs Smit and Mrs (Eve) Horwitz

Military training at the local Combat School was in full swing. Mrs. **Hellen Benjamin** of the Committee convened hospitality at private homes on Friday evenings after the Shul Service and on Yomtavin for all the Jewish Trainees.

1969

Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar** – became Chairman again.

We carried on with our ever-growing work including Cultural Meetings, Social Activities, Study Groups, Fund Raising, U.C.F. Campaigns, Jewish Communal work, service to all Welfare Groups besides annual donations to most Groups. Excellent co-operation is enjoyed from all executive members and Committee members who work together harmoniously. One of the activities in **May 69** was a **cookery demonstration** and hampers were won by Doreen Cohen and others. In

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August 69 UJW put on a **Fashion Show and mannequin parade**. In a garage show room. Organised by Monica Horwitz and her dress shop Milady Fashions it involved UJW and KWZL.

This year, 1969, marked our **30th Anniversary**. At our Annual General Meeting in November, the National President, Mrs **Sadie Kirsch** was our guest of honour. After the Annual General Meeting a Goodwill Luncheon was held in the Communal Hall to celebrate this great occasion. The hall was so beautifully decorated, and our Committee served a sumptuous meal. Heads of all the Kimberley Women's Organisations were present. Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar**, the Chairman, welcomed the guests, the Mayoress brought greetings from the City, the President of NCW proposed a toast and **Sadie Kirsch** gave an excellent address. All members felt great pride in our organisation and all that had been accomplished in the thirty years. All present were impressed and enjoyed this interesting luncheon event.



The caption for the picture above from the DFA of 14 November 1969, is: Mrs **Beryl Kretzmar** (left) a foundation member of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women and an hon life member of the branch, was hostess at the 30th jubilee luncheon in her capacity as immediate past chairman. Mrs Kretzmar has been Chairman on several previous occasions. On the arrival of the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs S Visser (right) Mrs Kretzmar introduced her to guest speaker, Mrs **Sadie Kirsch**, National President of the South African Union of Jewish Women.

Woman's place in the world – a world in which we tend to take change for granted (such as ease of communication) was the theme of an address by Mrs Sadie Kirsch national president of the Union of Jewish Women in South Africa who was in Kimberley on Wednesday to attend the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Kimberley branch.

Quoting from the Book of Proverbs and at the same time translating the quotations, into modern words and idiom, Mrs Kirsch pointed out that a woman's world is extremely diverse. As laid down in the Book, a woman had always been wife and mother, organiser and industrialist, realist, breadwinner, manual worker, interior decorator and dress designer.

Above all women are regarded as a people with a social conscience – tact, humour and diplomacy – in fact all the attributes of a first-rate public relations officer.

Throughout history women's life has been home-centred, but not home-limited. Commenting on younger women who have a role to play in community service in a changing mode of living, Mrs Kirsch said that in the main, they do this in spite of jobs, families and homes. 'It is always the busy person who can find time to do extra' she said.

Referring to Jewish women she said, 'Jewish women have many privileges. But no rights. She discussed the legal status of the Jewish woman in regard to divorce, marriage, inheritance and guardianship of children. She explained that the marriage of a Jewish woman in Israel are bound solely and entirely by Jewish law. Reporting on the international Council meeting she had attended, as head of the South African delegation of 22 women accompanied by 8 men observers, Mrs Kirsch said that the petition that had been presented with regard to the legal status had been signed by 1,000,000 women throughout the world. The idea of the petition had originated with former South African president Mrs Sara Sloman of Cape Town and Mrs Kirsch paid tribute to the part the late Bertha Solomon had played in assisting with the phrasing.

Mrs Solomon was not only wise on the legal side, she was also womanly wise' said Mrs Kirsch, for she impressed up on us that a non-antagonistic approach was likely to be the most successful and that in our dealings with men, we should always realise that a feminine approach would be likely to be the most successful.

The deputy mayoress Mrs Visser complemented the UJW on the attractive decoration, table appointments and banquet-like fare. She said that from the record which had been compiled by Mrs Beryl Kretzmar relating briefly to the organisation's activities, since its inception, it was obvious that its members realised the value of service to others.

1970

Mrs Phyllis Cohen – Chairman, Mrs **Sadie David** Hon. Secretary

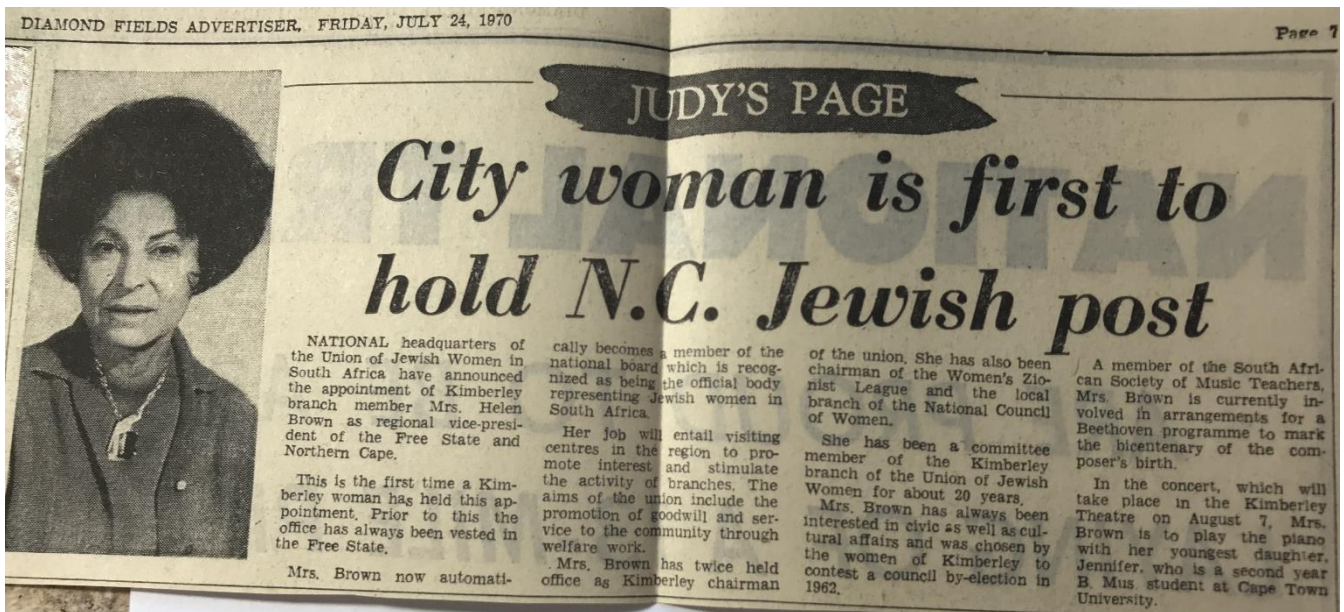


ably assisted by her executive members, Mrs **Doreen Cohen**, Mrs **Hellen Benjamin** and Mrs **Althea Kretzmar**.

In this picture we see Phyllis Cohen (centre) who was elected as the chairman of UJW. She is flanked by vice-chairmen, Doreen Cohen (left) and Hellen Benjamin,

This year 1970, Mrs **Helen Brown** was appointed **Regional Vice-President for the Orange Free State and Northern Cape** which was a great honour for our branch.

Helen Brown was also given the role of the Cultural convenor of the education section UJW as this article below illustrates



It says: National headquarters of the Union of Jewish Women in South Africa, has announced the appointment of Kimberley branch member Mrs **Helen Brown**, as regional Vice president for the Free state and Northern Cape. This is the first time that a Kimberley woman has held this appointment. Prior to this the office has always been vested in the Free State.

Mrs Brown now automatically becomes a member of the national board which is recognised as being the official body representing Jewish women in South Africa.

Her job will entail visiting centres in the region to promote interest and stimulate their activity of the branches. The aims of the union include the promotion of goodwill and service to the community through welfare work.

Mrs Brown has twice held office as Kimberley UJW chairman. She has also been chairman of the Women's Zionist League and the local branch of the National Council of Women.

She has been a committee member of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women for about 20 years. Mrs Brown has always been interested in civic as well as cultural affairs and was chosen to contest a council by-election in 1962.

A member of the South Africa society of music teachers, Mrs Brown is currently involved in arrangement for a Beethoven programme to mark the bicentenary of the composers birth. In the concert, which will take place in the Kimberley Theatre on August 7 (1970) Mrs Brown is to play the piano, with her youngest daughter Jennifer, who is a second year music student at Cape Town University.



Mrs. H. Brown, cultural convenor of the adult education section of the Union of Jewish Women which is presenting a series of tapes on opera in the Boys' High School Library. Compiling and commentary are by Mr. Lionel Kidson. The first of four lectures was held last week.

Series of opera lectures in city

The first in a series of four lectures on opera, illustrated with musical recordings, devised by Lionel Kidson and presented by the Union of Jewish Women, was held in the library of the Kimberley Boys' High School on Wednesday, and proved to be a highly informative and enjoyable event.

The purpose of these lectures is to trace the development of opera's beginnings in the 17th Century baroque period up to the present time. Mr. Kidson described the emergence of the earliest opera form and its first outstanding composer, Monteverdi, through to Handel, followed by Gluck and the introduction of new reforms re-establishing opera as a coherent art form.

Mr. Kidson emphasised the great contribution to opera by Mozart, whose intellectual genius inspired the development towards symphonic proportions, and then moved on to Beethoven's *Fidelio*, the first of the Romantic period, through to Weber and Rossini, and so presented a graphic pic-

ture of the early Opera Seria and later Opera Buffa — Opera Tragedy and Opera Comedy.

Highlight of the evening was some of the beautiful singing — particularly that of Elizabeth Schwartzkopf in the aria "All Meine Pulse Schlagen" from "Der Freischütz" by Weber. We also heard the glorious voices of Joan Sutherland, Tito Gobbi, Maria Callas and a particularly fine and characteristic interpretation by Nicola Zaccaria of the famous aria "La Calunnia" by Rossini.

The three subsequent lectures in this series will deal with specific periods in the history of opera. Examples of the works of various composers of the particular periods will be played at these sessions.

Fine equipment has been made available. This, together with the excellent manner in which the subject was compiled and presented provided the music-lover with a most stimulating evening. — S.K.

This article above from the DFA of 31.08.1970 says that Mrs **Helen Brown**, the cultural convenor of the adult education section of the Union of Jewish Women, was presenting a series of tapes on opera in the Boys' high School Library. Compiling and commentary are by Mr Lionel Kidson

Tribute paid to ex-president

THE MAYORESS, Mrs. Susan Visser, attending a Goodwill tea given by the local branch of the Union of Jewish Women, spoke of her admiration for the behaviour of the Jewish people in Israel.

On a visit to Israel earlier this year, Mrs. Visser had been an eyewitness of a bombing attack. At this, her first official function since her induction last week, Mrs. Visser expressed the hope that Israel would find a peaceful settlement in the near future.

She told guests from Nazareth House, Belgrave Lodge, Harmony Home, the Masonic Hostel and Ons Huis that she envied the serenity and experience which comes with years and wished them luck and happiness in the future. Next to speak was Mrs. Helen Brown, regional vice-president for the Free State and Northern Cape of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa.

dent of the branch in recognition of her outstanding service.

The presentation was made before about 140 of Kimberley's senior citizens who enjoyed an excellent tea and an afternoon of entertainment which culminated in community singing.

The Mayoress, Mrs. Susan Visser (centre), was the first to congratulate Mrs. Polly Horwitz (seated) on the Goodwill certificate which had been presented to her by Mrs. Helen Brown.



In **September 1970**, the UJW again paid tribute to their founding president Mrs **Polly Horwitz**

The article above from the DFA of 16.09.1970 says: The mayoress, Mrs Susan Visser, attending Goodwill tea given by the local branch of the Union of Jewish Women, spoke of her admiration for the behaviour of the Jewish people in Israel.

On a visit to Israel earlier this year, Mrs Visser had been an eyewitness to a bombing attack. At this

her first official function since her induction last week, Mrs Visser expressed the hope that Israel would find a peaceful settlement in the near future.

She told guests from Nazareth House, Belgrave Lodge, Harmony Home, the Masonic Hostel and Ons Huis, that she envied the serenity and experience which comes with years and wished them luck and happiness in the future.



Next to speak was Mrs **Helen Brown**, regional vice president of the Free State and Northern Cape of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa.

Paying tribute to the founder president of the Kimberley branch, Mrs **Polly Horwitz**, Mrs Brown says that Mrs Horwitz was a woman who exuded zest and charm. "She is a person whose dignity has earned her the esteem of Kimberley" said Mrs Brown, who presented Mrs Horwitz with a Goodwill certificate.

Mrs Horwitz who had held office for six years after the inauguration of the branch 31 year ago was told that she had been made (an honorary life president of the branch in recognition of her outstanding service.

The presentation was made before about 140 of Kimberley's senior citizens who enjoyed an excellent tea and an afternoon of entertainment which culminated in community singing.

In the picture, The mayoress Mrs Susan Visser (centre) was the first to congratulate **Mrs Polly Horwitz** (seated) on the Goodwill certificate which had been presented to her by Mrs **Helen Brown**.

1971-1972

Mrs **Doreen Cohen** – Chairman, Mrs **Val Jaffe** – Hon. Secretary. Mrs **Delia Benn** – Treasurer.

Mrs **Doreen Cohen** through her hard work and pleasant manner was a wonderful inspiration the Committee and many younger women joined her, and two very active years ensued, much being accomplished on all fronts.

In this picture from 1971 or 72 73 or 74, shows chairman **Doreen Cohen** presenting a Goodwill certificate to **Helen Brown**. The [heading] was Union of Jewish Women honour Helen Brown.

1973

Mrs **Doreen Cohen** and Mrs **Hellen Benjamin** – Joint Chairmen. Mrs **Cecile Jawno** – Hon. Secretary. Mrs **Delia Benn** – Treasurer.

During this period a very large sum of money (R10 000,00) was given to our organisation from the estate of the late **Guttel Sussman** (father of **Cecil Sussman** of Premier Meat Supplies). This was deposited at 8% interest. The interest from this trust was given to a new wing to be built at Resthaven Aged Home for Coloureds, to be known as "The Union of Jewish Women Sick Bay".

The new premises for the Perseverance Nursery School for Coloureds was also helped. A very successful "Ascot Ball" was held and was the highlight of the year's fund-raising and a very substantial sum of money was raised.

During 1973 our membership has dropped considerably to **99 paid-up members**, as people are still leaving our city. During 1973 the Kimberley Jewish Community celebrated their centenary. Our branch donated **12 new chandeliers to the synagogue** to mark the occasion. Our branch together with the Kimberley Women's Zionist League did the catering and arranging for their "Afternoon Tea."

For various reasons the Soup Kitchen Convenor, Mrs **Miriam Klein** and her sub-committee changed the system – packeted soup is now handed out in monthly quantities and this is working very well. Mrs **Violet Toube** and Mrs **Monica Horwitz** and their helpers had a very successful U.C.F. campaign.



IN celebration of the 25th anniversary of the State of Israel the Kimberley Branch of the Union of Jewish Women and the Kimberley Women's Zionist League staged an Israeli breakfast yesterday. Speakers after the meal were (from left) Mrs Grace Klein on Yom Kippur in Israel; Mrs Ester Klein, Yom Ha'atzmaut; Mrs Clara Brown, Street Incidents; Mrs Hannah Frank, the Galilee and Golan Heights; Mrs Helen Brown, Life in the Negev; Mrs Beryl Kretzmar, Impressions of Jerusalem — New and Old; and Mrs Althea Kretzmar, Household Shopping in Israel. Breakfast was a mouth-watering presentation of traditional dishes including fresh breads, cream cheeses, hard boiled eggs, olives and salad ingredients accompanied by orange juice, buttermilk, tea and coffee.

Israeli breakfast: For Israel's 25th anniversary, UJW and the Women's Zionist League joined together for an Israeli Breakfast at 9.30am on 8 August, 1973, at **Marie Datnow's** farm Marrick.

Several members spoke of their personal experiences of Israel. (the event cost 50 cents. and booking was via Val Jaffe on phone 8506)

From left to right:

Grace Klein – spoke on Yom Kippur in Jerusalem

Esther Klein – Yom Ha'atzmaut

Clara Brown – Street Incidents

Hannah Frank – The Galilee and Golan Heights

Helen Brown – Live in the Negev

Beryl Kretzmar – Impressions of Jerusalem – new and old

Althea Kretzmar – Household shopping in Israel

12-10-73

DIAM.



Five women closely associated with the Combined Jewish Women's Organisations emergency appeals are (from left) (standing) Mrs Grace Klein emergency campaign convener; Mrs Marie Datnow co-chairman of the Kimberley Women's Zionist League; (seated) Mrs Helen Brown, regional vice-president of the OFS and Northern Cape Union of Jewish Women, Mrs Val Jaffe, co-chairman of the Kimberley Women's Zionist League and Mrs Doreen Cohen, chairman of the Kimberley Branch of the Union of Jewish Women.

AID SOUGHT FROM CITY ZIONISTS

REFERRING to the present Israeli war as a war of existence, a war which if lost would mean total annihilation, Mr Philip Klein, chairman of the Ezrath Zion Association, addressed members of the combined Jewish women's organisations of trouble such as this the thinking person needs no exhortation.

He said that the only positive act of service the Kimberley community could make was in the provision of funds for the tremendous task of relief

In this picture from October 1973 (at the time of the **Yom Kippur war**) we see five women closely associated with the Combined Jewish Women's organisations emergency appeal: Standing from left **Grace Klein** (emergency campaign convener) **Marie Datnow** co chair WZL Seated: **Helen Brown** regional Vice President UJW (Orange Free State and N

Cape) **Val Jaffe** co-chair WZL **Doreen Cohen** chair UJW.

They were addressed by Mr Philip Klein Chairman of the Ezrath Zion Association seeking combines support for relief and rehabilitation in this from this war, which if lost would mean total annihilation. He suggested that the individual in the community should take capital and liquidity and invest it in the future of Israel.

1974

Mrs **Doreen Cohen** and Mrs **June Haberfeld** – were elected Joint Chairmen, Mrs **Cecile Jawno** – Hon. Secretary. Mrs **Delia Benn** – Treasurer.

During this period all aspects of our work flourished, our commitments to Headquarters for South Africa and Israel, also to our Community and Hebrew Centre, all calls both financial and with personal assistance were attended to.

A new regular feature is a “Womens Forum” organised by Adult Education group convenors, Mrs **Helen Brown**, Mrs **Eve Horwitz** and Mrs **Anita Matzner** (wife of the minister) One morning each month a guest speaker gives a talk on a variety of subjects and tea is served – this being well supported by the general public.

1975

Mrs **Cecile Jawno** and Mrs **Monica Horwitz** – Joint Chairmen. Mrs **Rhona Bayer** – Hon. Secretary. Mrs **Delia Benn** – Treasurer.

A very rewarding year due to the enthusiasm and hard work done by the excellent executive and committee. A successful fund-raising effort new to the Branch was a live show given by the SABC at a sponsored quiz show at our Theatre.

Much progress was made by the Adult Education section and general work went smoothly.

This year our branch has lost two very good Committee members, who have left the city, Mrs **Althea Kretzmar**, who has worked for the Committee for many years as a past Chairman as well as being Treasurer for several years. Also, Mrs **Ray Harding** who was always ready to do a good job at all times.

This being “Women’s Year” a new function was added and a “**Woman of the Year**” was chosen and honoured at an evening Goodwill meeting to which heads of all Women’s organisations were present. Our “Woman of the Year” was Justice Leo van der Heever. This proves to what heights women can rise to. Our Judge, besides her outstanding legal work, helps the community in many ways, and is always ready to help.

Mrs **Helen Brown** was made a life Vice President of this Branch in appreciation of all her good work and she was presented with a Goodwill certificate.

1976

Mrs. **June Haberfeld** and Mrs **Joan Rauff** – were elected Joint Chairman. Mrs **Cecile Jawno** – Secretary. Mrs. **Doreen Cohen** – Treasurer.

During this year a successful Border Fete was held, funds going to Headquarters towards the purchase of a Mobile Medical Unit costing R100 000,00 which was handed to the S.A. Defence Department by our National President of the Union of Jewish Women from combined Jewish Women’s organisations of South Africa.



In this picture **Beryl Kretzmar**, (left) Mrs A Victor, Mrs **Hannah Frank** and Mrs **S Tennen** are seen attending a Civilian Blind Society event to raise funds

A bring-and-buy sale was held at the home of Mrs. Ivy Kros this week to raise funds for the Ivy Kros Training Centre for the Blind run by the Kimberley and Northern Cape Civilian Blind Society of which Mrs. Kros is secretary. Among those who attended were (from left to right) Mrs. N. Kretzmar, Mrs. A. Victor, Mrs. J. Frank and Mrs. S. Tennen. The centre's funds

Our Goodwill Function was once again "Woman of the Year". This was an elegant occasion at a local Hotel. Mrs. **Pearl Mandelstam**, a

past National President graced the occasion. A light Israeli supper was enjoyed and commented on. Our Woman of the Year was Mrs **Kay Henderson**, a worthy recipient unanimously chosen. (seen on the right of the picture on the left with **Beryl Kretzmar**)



MRS. Beryl Kretzmar (left) a past president of the Kimberley branch of the Union of Jewish Women, and one of three honorary life vice-presidents, presented Mrs Kay Henderson, this year's Woman of the Year, with a goodwill certificate as a token of the esteem in which her fellow women hold her.

A function was held at Resthaven, a home for elderly Coloured people. Our branch had sponsored the building of the Sick Bay. Many of our members were present. A plaque was unveiled by Mrs **June Habberfeld** commemorating our donation. Speeches of thanks to our organisation were very appreciative.

Our contribution to our congregation this year was to restore the **Silver Bells to our Torah** and to repairing the congregation tables.

This Branch assisted Civil Defence with schemes of housing and shelter in times of need.

1977

Mrs **Joan Rauff** – Chairman. Mrs **Doreen Cohen** – Treasurer – Secretary – Mrs Shirley Katz

During this year our Committee started a new project providing refreshments after the service every Saturday morning for the **Oneg Shabbat** given by **Rev and Mrs Matzner** at their home. This has proved very popular.

Our Branch apart from numerous other commitments continues to pay the rental for the Hebrew Play Centre and attend to their needs.

From the rebate from the UCF Campaign this year our Branch replaced the backdrop and wing curtains of the stage at the Communal Hall.

Our Soup Kitchen continues to flourish, the numbers off recipients increasing all the time. Our Xmas parcels this year amounted to R2000,00.

1978-1979



dent and chairman of the National Adult Education Division, she has been national chairman of the Community Services Division.

She is a member of Women for Peace and Black Cash

Mrs Cohen is a noted cook, with two cookery books to her credit. One of them, which she wrote for the King David School, has been reprinted several times and is now going to be metricated.

MRS JEANETTE COHEN, a past national president of the Union of Jewish Women (centre), with two life presidents of the Kimberley branch of the Union. On the left is Mrs Helen Brown and on the right is Mrs Beryl Kretzmar.

In the picture above, my mother **Beryl** on the right, and **Helen Brown** on the left, are sitting on the sofa in our lounge in front of the stinkwood bookshelf with Cookery writer and former national President Jeanette Cohen who visited the branch from Johannesburg in **November 1978**

1978

Shirley Katz (below left) and **Delia Benn** (right) were elected Joint Chairmen. They are pictured with Mrs Rose Norwich, who was the National President of UJW



MRS ROSE NORWICH, National President of the Union of Jewish Women, was pictured in Kimberley this week with the newly-elected co-chairman of the local branch, Mrs Shirley Katz (left) and Mrs Delia Benn (right). Also elected at the annual meeting were Mrs J. Haberveld as vice-chairman, Mrs B. Cohen as secretary and Mrs D. Cohen as treasurer.

Mrs **Doreen Cohen** – Treasurer. Mrs **B. Cohen** – Secretary.

They reported: 'The Kimberley Jewish population is decreasing and we now have 92 paid up members. Our service to all organisations continues and good work goes on steadily.

A new project started by our Branch is a "Cosy Corner Tea Room" where we serve tea once every month to

approximately 50-60 pensioners after they have collected their monthly pensions. This is served in the Supper Room of the City Hall opposite the Post Office. The Pensioners are also offered transport if required.

Extra donations in 1978 were:-

1. R300,00 to F.A.C.T. (**Feed a Child Today**) – a feeding scheme for Coloured and Black School Children.
2. R230.00 To **Operation Jonathan** – a fund to rehabilitate Israeli soldiers who suffered during the last war.
3. R500,00 to **Headquarters** who were in financial difficulties.

A very successful **fete** was held in the Communal Hall and garden in September 1978 for funds. Our members and friends worked very hard and were rewarded as the amount raised was in the vicinity of R1 800.00.

Our Chairmen were upholding the wonderful standard of work of previous Chairmen. They ended their Annual General Meeting report by quoting "As human beings, Lord we have learned the dignity and value of the smallest task well done, and so in whatever way we can, we are here to help you Lord."

In November 1979 **June Haberfeld** was elected Chairman

As 1979 was our **40th Anniversary**, the Committee decided to hold a Cocktail party at the Communal Hall to start at 5:30pm before our AGM at 8pm. Husbands of members were invited also Chairladies of all Kimberley welfare organisations. Our history from 1939 was read, a candle lighting ceremony took place, many greetings were received including a Goodwill Certificate from Headquarters praising the outstanding quality of our work during the years. Our guest speaker

THE KIMBERLEY BRANCH OF THE UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

was Mrs Annette Friedman who spoke on "The role of the Jewish Woman in the Community". The function was a highlight of the year 1979.



In the picture top left, **Fanny Brown**, (third from left) who had been chairman from 1945-47 and again from 1953-54 is lighting a candle with two of their chosen women of the year Kay Henderson left and Mrs Alta Marais right. Second from left is Mrs Mari Wilmans, the Mayoress of Kimberley.

In the picture top right, the guest speaker, Mrs Annette Friedman (standing) is pictured with left **Helen Brown** and right **Beryl Kretzmar**, both of whom had been made hon life Vice Presidents of the branch.

In the picture at the bottom **June Haberfeld**, left, the incoming chairman, is seen with the outgoing co-chairmen **Shirley Katz** and **Delia Benn**.

1979

During 1979 work went on as usual very efficiently, our Chairmen inspiring the Committee with their tact and enthusiasm.

To highlight the International Year of the Child, we presented a Symposium "**To Love a Child**" dealing with children and problems relating to them Colin Fluxman conducted the Forum and five speakers presented their views. Approximately 150 people attended this function at the Kimberley Boys' High School on the evening of the 23rd April, 1979 and the proceeds were donated to Child Welfare.

May 1981

Chairman – Mrs **June Haberfeld** (who actually took over in November 1979) Treasurer – Mrs **Doreen Cohen**, Secretary – Mrs **B. Cohen**.

There was no AGM in November 1981 in view off the fact that the new Fund Raising Act was passed. The UJW was instructed that as from 1980-1981 the financial year was now to end on 31st May – so that the next AGM would be for a 15-month period. AGM's would in future take place around May month each year hereafter.

The Committee did excellent work – one of the Adult Ed. functions was the showing of the movie “**Future Shock**” organised by **Cecille Jawno** and **Delia Benn** with Johan Swart as Co-ordinator – this provoked lively discussion.

The festivals were all highlighted and thanks went out to **Rev and Mrs Cooperman** for their help and involvement.

The UJW continues to give Service to God through service to our fellow man and we continue to run several projects.

The **Soup Kitchen** is going well now reaching about 600 each month, receiving parcels of soup and cheery Christmas Hampers. The JW Orr Trust fund contributed R2000 this year. Other contributors are de Beers R450, SAPM R50, UBS R50, Round Table R5, Methodist Church R50, together with our Street Collection which brought in R254, we do not have to have more fundraising for this effort.

Our Cosy Corner convened by **Shirley Katz** is flourishing, we now have a foot clinic at the same time which is a boon to our elderly ladies. Shirley also organises birthday greetings and organises little outings with transport all adding to the happiness of our pensioners.

Our UCF campaign was launched successfully by Mrs **Violet Toubé** and Mrs **Doreen Cohen** and guest speaker was Mrs Freda Kapelus.

Our gift to the Shul this year was a **new Torah cover** and help in equipping the Kosher Kitchen. Our branch still pays the rent for the Hebrew Nursery School, gives prized to cheder and subsidises two visits per year for schlichot to visit Kimberley's Habonim group.

We have given service and donation and helped all the local organisations and enjoy a good working relationship with all concerned.

Once again, our Founders Day celebrations of a tea for all senior citizens was very successful.

May 1982

Chairman – Mrs **June Haberfeld**, Vice-Chairman – Mrs **Doreen Cohen**, Treasurer – **Shirley Katz**, Secretary – Mrs **I Kenny**, Asst. Sec – Mrs **S Shmueli**.

All our ongoing activities functioned very well as usual – our cultural activities, our projects, our assistance to local organisations – our commitments to Headquarters and to Israel, and all Jewish activities in Kimberley.

The Kimberley branch organised a **Jewish Friendship Club** for our Jewish women in the form of an afternoon get together tea at private homes – these are proving very popular particularly for our senior members.

With our rebate from UCF a **deep freeze was presented to the kosher kitchen.**
As costs rise, we raised R305 from our **Jumble Sale** and R721 from our cake sale.

Beryl Kretzmar and **Helen Brown** undertook the research into the pictorial history of early Kimberley Jewry and the tremendous impact these pioneers made on the history of South Africa. This history is for the 1983 History at the Beth Hatefutsoth Museum of the Diaspora Jews in Tel Aviv, Israel. It was an honour for our branch to do the research. (To read more about the Jewish impact on the early history of Kimberley, you can read my story of Alfred Beit – a pivotal player in the amalgamation of De Beers Consolidated Mines and the diamond industry as a whole https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kimberley/Alfred_Beit.html)

July 1982. **Doreen Cohen** took over the chair, again

“**Fiddler on the Roof**” is to be staged in March 1983, to be produced by Johan Swart. It was a big undertaking and help would be needed by all members.

May 1983 (43rd AGM)

Chairman – Mrs **Doreen Cohen**, Treasurer – Mrs **Shirley Katz**, Secretary **Mrs I Kenny**.

In July, the combined women's Jewish organisations in common with every other Jewish community in the country, launched a **Peace for Galilee** campaign. We held a blitz canvass, for cash donations, held a bumper cake sale and various other functions.

Although we have welcomed a few new members, regrettably our community is decreasing, we now have only **84 paid up members. We had 126 in 1967.**

Cosy Corner is flourishing, we have introduced entertainment during Friendship Club afternoons.

This year we subsidized a **seminar for Habonim** which was held in Bloemfontein. The major project this year was the staging off “**Fiddler on the Roof**”, which ran for 10 performances and was a spectacular success from all aspects, mainly due to our brilliant director Johan Swart, and backed up by our very enthusiastic committee. Socially it was the highlight of the year, and financially we raised R8 000.00.

Adult Ed. continued to function, although we would like our members to show more support and enthusiasm.

We combined again with Kimberley Women's Zionist League for the Jewish festivals and the ceremonial cleaning of the silver. The conference of the National Council of Women was held in Kimberley, and a UJW delegation was sent.

UCF 17th campaign was launched by **Violet Toubé** and **Doreen Cohen**, despite a loss in numbers, our members contributed generously to this important fund and almost 50% have realised and met the need to make increases in these inflationary times.

We are very fortunate in having people like **Vi Toubé** to run UCF and secretary **Illana Kenny**, and the calibre of Chairladies and Executive who inspire their committee to do such outstanding work.

In August 1983 Chairman **Doreen Cohen** resigned, as she and her family were leaving to set up home in Johannesburg.

Doreen had 18 years of involvement in our community. She served three separate terms as chairman of our UJW Branch, as well as every other executive position. A farewell party was given to **Doreen and Webby** by the combined Jewish organisations. A Goodwill Certificate and

mezzuzah was presented to Doreen by our branch. She was a model of inspiration to all who worked with her. Her departure has left a void in our midst.

Sharon Geller and **Rhona Bayer** agreed to act as co-chairmen until the next A.G.M. in June 1984.

They carried out the work well and were both delegates to the Interim Conference in Durban in November 1983.

1984-1985 June 1984 44th AGM

Co-Chairman, **Sharon Geller** and **Myra Goldenbaum**. Secretary, **R. Salkinder**. Treasurer, **Shirley Katz**.

We continued all community services, Soup Kitchen, Cosy Corner, subsidies to Resthaven. Financial support to Hebrew Play Centre, Habonim and our regular donations to all Kimberley welfare organisations.

The Adult Education in capable hands of convenor **Cecile Jawno** is doing excellent work. During the last few years interesting talks and projects have been arranged, including guest speakers, Rabbi Hendler, Rivette Slom, Liz Dooley, Vernon Kirsten, Pam Williams, Lynette Douglas, Prof. Carmen Nathan, to mention just a few.

Our finance is in a healthy state, thanks to our efficient Treasurer **Shirley Katz**.

1985-1986 45th Annual General Meeting May 1985

Co-Chairmen **Sharon Geller** and **Myra Goldenbaum**.

Our branch undertook to raise funds for our Congregation. A major cake sale in September 1984 raised R1, 108 and on 1st November a mammoth flea market was organised in our city hall and a great effort was made by all and R3,190 was made.

Our own Fundraising effort was a Parachute Debate in May 1985. The committee, with **Myra Goldenbaum** went all out with great enthusiasm. The décor was outstanding. A panel of local and imported celebrities, also judges was arranged. A cold supper in a marquee in the shul grounds was provided. The function was a great success socially and financially and a large amount was raised, and a substantial donation was made to the Sally Aucamp Home, for school leavers.

It was with regret that we bade farewell to **Rev. and Mrs Copperman** who had been hard workers particularly with the children's Hebrew Education. A joint farewell tea was given by our branch and the KWZL. A mezzuzah and a goodwill certificate were presented to Mrs Copperman.

In 1986 **Myra Goldenbaum** resigned, pending her leaving Kimberley. **Cecile Jawno** and **Shirley Katz** agreed to be co-chairmen of the branch.

1986-1987 46th Annual General Meeting May 26th, 1986

Co-Chairmen **Cecile Jawno** and **Shirley Katz**. Secretary **Ruth Sandler**.

Our membership is now **only 71 paid up members**. **Rev. and Mrs Warman**, have commenced duties. The pamphlet D.B.F. (**Don't be Faribbled**) is the brain-child of Jackie Warman our inventive Rebbetzen. This letter put out every month is very popular.

All sections of work going ahead smoothly. Founder's Day Tea, March 1986, Friendship Club, Cosy Corner, Soup Kitchen, Highlighting of Festivals, Oneg Shabbat refreshments among other activities.

Beryl Kretzmar

August 1986

Geraldine writes in February 2020:

We don't know exactly when the UJW in Kimberley ceased to be. My mother **Beryl Kretzmar** died in July 1989. **Helen Brown** died in December 1989. Both passed away in Kimberley where they had been born and had spent their whole lives. **Delia Benn** left Kimberley in June 1990 for the USA. **Miriam Klein** and **Sharon Geller** were two that I know of who carried on the leadership till the late 1990s. **Shirley Katz** helping to run the UJW Cosy Corner tea centre, that she had started decades previously, until ill health overcame her in 2016.

If you have any further information of these latter years, or any time, we will all be pleased to hear from you.