

## Kimberley Jewish Burial Grounds

Read about the cemeteries on these pages and

[Click here to visit the  
Kimberley Virtual Cemetery](#)



Gates of Green Street Cemetery

There have been over 1000 burials in Kimberley from 1871 to 2020.



Panorama of Green Street Cemetery, December 2022

[Click here to visit the Kimberley Virtual Cemetery](#) Where you can:

- visit the gravesites in absolute **safety whenever** you want to
- from **wherever** you are
- search for a **particular** grave
- see the tombstone (where there is one)
- leave a **stone** to show you have visited
- write a **message** on their memorial wall
- upload a **picture** of the person to their page
- Buy a **leaf** on their tree of life to show your care and connection – and know that your leaf donation will help to support the people on the ground in Kimberley who care for the actual graves in the cemeteries.

### How we made the virtual Cemetery:

**The photographs:** **Shawn Benjamin**, who was born and grew up in Kimberley in the 1960s and is a professional photographer in Cape Town, went to Kimberley in December 2022 to photograph all the graves in both the Green Street and Stead Street Cemeteries. His trip was facilitated by **Barney Horwitz**, chairman, **Trevor Datnow** trustee and **Barry Katz**, former trustee of the Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation. It was supported by the **Kimberley Jewish Heritage Steering Group**.

Thank you to all who are supporting the Steering Group to deliver this project. this is a constituent of CHOL – Community History On-Line [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website)

**The Data:** We believe that we have assembled the most complete data ever, using information from the burial records in Kimberley; the South African Jewish Rootsbank cemetery data at UCT; examining the text on the tombstones; and from information and clarification from the families.

Examine the list of burials here [List of burials](#)

If you would like to submit additional information, please send to: [info@chol.website](mailto:info@chol.website)

**The process:** This process has been initiated and driven by Geraldine Auerbach MBE for the Kimberley Heritage Steering Group. We are extremely grateful to **Larry Galansky** who has created the Virtual Cemetery website for Kimberley in honour of his father **Sam Galansky** Chairman of the Cape Town Jewish Cemeteries Board. Thanks also to Larry's team that have built the site and to all those who have provided information and sent their donations to support the endeavour.

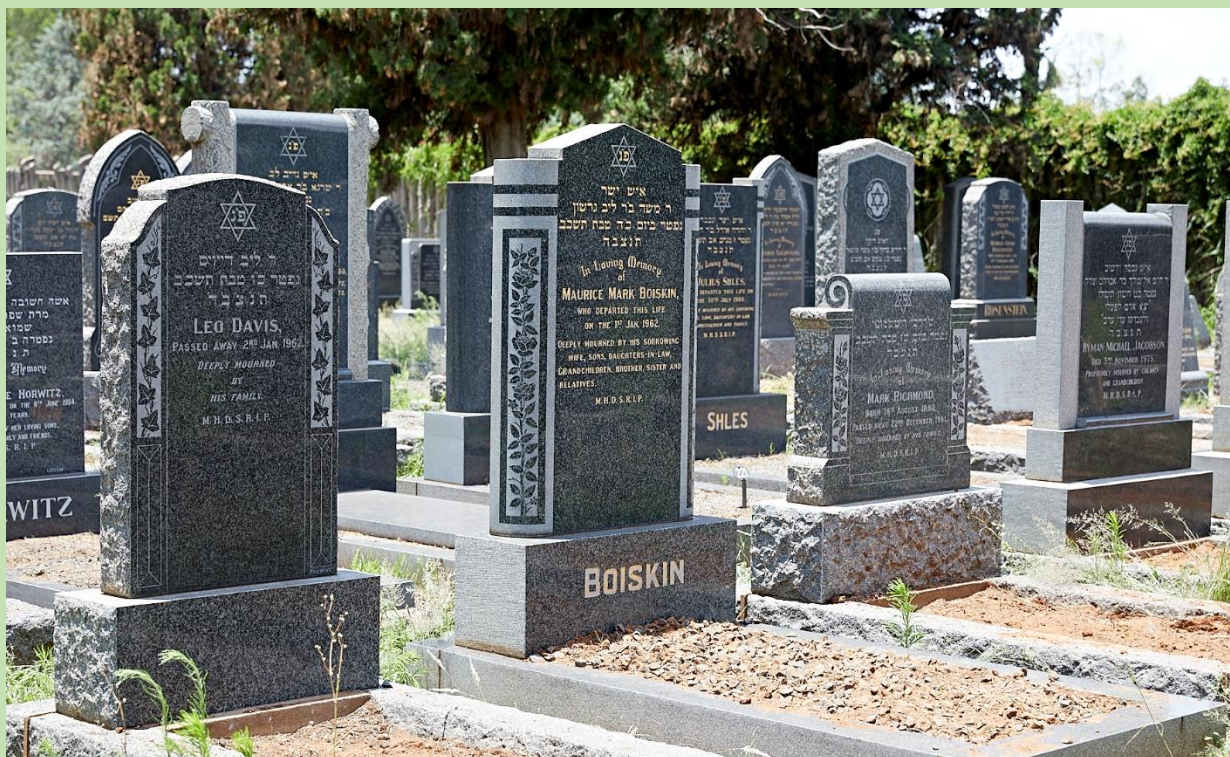


Read about the 3 Kimberley Jewish Cemeteries on the following pages.

## Kimberley's Three Jewish Cemeteries

There are three places where Jews are buried in Kimberley: **Old Dutoitspan** cemetery in Beaconsfield in use from the early 1870s with about 30 graves, the **Stead Street** cemetery in use also from about that time until 1929 with about 500 graves when the current **Green Street** cemetery was created also with about 500 graves.

### The 'New' Cemetery Green Street, West End (1929 – to the present)



This was consecrated in 1929, by William Sagar JP, the much admired and long-serving (over 20 years) Congregation President, and former Mayor of Kimberley. He thanked the Mayor and the City Council for granting the land for the grounds and laid the foundation stone for the new prayer hall with a suitably inscribed silver trowel.

Rev Konviser led the congregation round the grounds, with Cantor Rudy chanting psalms on 24 March 1929. Just four years later, in 1933, Rev

Konviser was very sad to have to officiate at William Sagar's internment. You can read details of his funeral cortege and Rev Konviser's oration on page five in the story of 'Sagar, William and Family' on the website.

This cemetery is still in use, but few people are left in Kimberley (2023) to be buried there. There are approximately 500 graves in the Green Street cemetery.



## The Old Cemetery, Stead Street (about 1871-1929)



This cemetery was consecrated by the long-serving (for 30 years) **Rev Harris Isaacs**. The foundation stone of the Ohel (prayer hall) was laid by **Col David Harris** in 1901 through it is clear that many burials took place there from 1871 onwards. There are approximately 500 graves. Some neglect and possibly vandalism was evident in this cemetery by 2022. Gravestones had to be dug out and uncovered to be photographed. This is being attended to in April 2021.





## **The very old Dutoitspan Cemetery (1871 – 1982)**

in Beaconsfield.

There are approximately 30 Jewish graves in the oldest Kimberley cemetery.

The sudden influx of people into the region in the late 1860s and the growth the mining villages saw the need for an official demarcated cemetery. Initially, those who died from October 1869 were buried anywhere outside of the inhabited sections but by early 1871 the Dutoitspan cemetery was being utilised. By mid-July that same year there were already 43 graves in the cemetery, specifically designed in the shape of a coffin.



Kimberley's first cemetery was later enlarged to include separate Jewish and Moslem sections, and the Christian sections were extended. Though Jewish burials later took place at the Jewish Cemetery in Stead Street, this Dutoitspan cemetery was in general use right up until 1982, and those who had family plots were allowed burials there even after the official closure. This is accessible to the general public only with special permission.

This cemetery was sadly neglected in the 1980s and 1990s. However, the Ekapa Mining Company who took over the land from De Beers, cleaned up and restored the area in 2017, and it is now protected. We hope to have access to it and fine out about and photograph all the Jewish graves soon. Above is a picture of an area of this cemetery in its neglected state, and below is of the oldest Jewish cemetery since it has been cleaned up.



The restored Jewish section of the Dutoitspan cemetery 2017

**Roam through some of the cemeteries**

**You can roam at your leisure through the rows and examine the photographs of the avenues and graves** in both the **Stead Street** and **Current Green Street** Cemeteries, by clicking the links below. Click each image to enlarge it.

[Old Jewish Cemetery Stead Street](#)

[New Jewish Cemetery Green Street](#)

These galleries of pictures were taken by **Jono David**, a British American living at one time in Japan who has taken up on himself to photograph Jewish history across the world.

He visited South Africa in February 2014 and took beautiful pictures in Kimberley of all the gravestones in the two cemeteries. (Double click on the images themselves to see each grave enlarged and perhaps without the watermark.)

See the galleries of pictures of **Kimberley synagogue** and cemeteries by Shawn, Jono and others by clicking their names on the website [Photos Page](#)

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### **Kimberley Jewish Cemeteries**

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London 2014 – updated august 2023

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