

# Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter #44

## New Year's Zoom Gatherings 2021

### Kimberley Heritage

### Family profiles: Haberfelds, Hammars and Jonty Sandler

### Community History On-Line (CHOL) write-up and links

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, 25 August 2021

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### Two New Year Kimberley Zoom Meetings

- **Sunday 29 August 12.00noon** SA time suitable for OZ
- **Sunday 5 September 7.00pm** SA time suitable for USA

Join us to bring in the New Year together! The Zoom link is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81104050877?pwd=YTIJTE13S2RUTC9oWEdXWVBncldWZz09>

Dear Kimberley friends

**For this coming Sunday 29 August at 12.00noon** South African time, I have invited some people to speak to us for a few minutes. **Natalie Sussman** will talk about the early days of Zionism in Kimberley. There was passion and controversy, and it will be interesting to know the story from someone who lived through it. (You can already read on our website about [Jabotinsky's Visit](#) to Kimberley in 1938.) **Daphne Gillis** – with her brother **Trevor Toubé** kibitzing no doubt – will talk about the families who lived in Miner Crescent and Milner Street. She will also talk about some great Jewish sportsmen and women in Kimberley – or the ones she knows about specially in **hockey**. We invite anyone with snippets about **cricketers, golfers, bowls, and rugby** players etc – even poker players to write in – and also to talk about them on this Zoom gathering. And I am delighted that **Joy Capon** has agreed to talk to us about the little book she wrote about her parents, and a bit of history about the grandparents, specially interesting, because it's a little unusual from a South African Jewish perspective that her paternal grandparents were from the Greek Island of **Salonica**. Joy will also update us on the Capon family that is still around,

I have also invited **Barney Horwitz**, Chairman of the Community, to bring us a New Year's greeting **at both sessions** and to tell us about Rosh Hashanah in Kimberley – which will again be with their unique ruach. (If you are still thinking about which shul to go to – Kimberley shul is highly recommended.) And maybe you want to make a donation this year to the community.

**For Sunday 5 September at 7.00pm** South African time, I have invited **David Levinsohn** to talk about his teenage years in Kimberley spent with David Allen, Elly Shles Allen Dave, Ivor Haberfeld and Tony Isaacs (all born 1934-35). David says: What's amazing is that other than Ivor, all of us are still here! I have also invited **David Friedman** to speak. He was born in Kimberley in 1935. Even though he left aged about three, he still thinks fondly of Kimberley as his hometown. He will talk about what draws him to Kimberley. You can read about David (Judge Friedman) and his family here: [Friedman, Joe & Kate \(nee Bergman\) & son David](#).

And we will have a chance to greet each other.

If **you want to have your say** about something, please get in touch. ~~~~~

## Preserving the Kimberley Jewish footprint

The **Kimberley Heritage Steering Group** has had its first meeting. **Jonathan Joseph, Barney Horwitz's** cousin led the small group of two Americans (**Delia and Bobby Benn** you had lived much of their adult lives in Kimberley) two South Africans (Barney and **David Allen**) – and two from the UK (Jonathan and **me**). The purpose was to show Barney and his fellow Kimberley members that they are not alone, but that we are extending the hand of friendship and support in the great task of preserving Kimberley's Jewish footprint. It was agreed that it was necessary to assess and collect together the information about size and number of the properties, the appurtenances and synagogue records so that we clearly know what the Footprint entails. Barney will be put in touch with the Jewish Museum in Cape Town who will advise and help the community with digitizing all this - bris and wedding records, minute books, graves etc and storing these safely. Jonathan will look into creating a fund to help to see the community through for the next several years. However, it was recognised that in order to start Fundraising Jonathan will need to have the answers to the questions set out in the document that has been produced, so that we have an accurate picture and understand what is needed and that potential donors can be told what the funds are needed for. We will meet again after the chagim.

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**New Family Stories** We have several new family stories posted on the website.

### Gus Haberfeld

Gus Haberfeld was a towering figure when I grew up in Kimberley – both as the Mayor of the City and the President and prominent congregant of the Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation.



It's been a long hunt to assemble news and photos of Gus and his family including brother Cyril, Sister Girlie (who married Poddy Shein) and son Ivor.

But at last, Ivor's wife June has had the peace of mind to sit down to write the story and send some great pictures. Here above, we see Gus and his wife Anne, their son Ivor and his wife June at some black tie occasion in the 1970s. Ivor sadly passed away in 2018.

Congratulations to June who was recently remarried in Johannesburg – to Barry Saffer who had been a friend of Ivor's over many years.

Read the Haberfeld story here: [Haberfeld, Gus & Family](#)

and also about the [Isaacson, Louis](#) (HOD Lodge)

## The Hammar Family

Do you recognise the three smiley children Leonard, Madelene and Dennis? Dad Sonny (Isidor) Hammar worked as a GP first in Warrenton and then in practice with Shim Klein and Julius Kretzmar.

When he retired from practice in Kimberley, the family moved to Cape Town where he continued to work until he finally retired. They eventually settled in a retirement home called Woodside Village in Rondebosch.

You can see pictures of what these children look like as adults and read their family stories from Israel and Bantry Bay here

[Hammar Family](#)



I have compiled a profile for  
**Jonty Sandler** 1950 - 2021  
*Generous benefactor and  
Visionary businessman*

Jonty and Melody, who converted to Judaism, have been staunch members of Temple Israel in Hillbrow. Melody is pictured below with their son Nathan now aged 1. Being a good trumpeter, Nathan is also an impressive shofar blower- an honour he had at their synagogue their synagogue in Johannesburg on the Rosh Hashanah before Covid struck Last year (2020) they had hoped to come to Kimberley for the High Holydays - but sadly Covid put paid to that wish.





On the profile you can read about of the projects that Jonty has been involved with as creator and director such as **Wild Waters** Water Park near Boksburg that is still going strong, and **Shareworld** near Soweto, that folded. He has certainly had an intense and colourful life.

Read it here: [Sandler, Jonty](#)

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## Community History Online



My work on cementing Kimberley community history online has led to the development with the South African Jewish Museum and the Kaplan centre of an entity that we have called simply Community History On-Line (CHOL). This little write up of the first conference (on Zoom) will explain all about it. You can also see the sessions again on the South African Jewish Museum's website. See the links at the end. to listen again and to the sites that were mentioned

### Conference 2021

#### A write-up of the online conference about Preserving the footprint of Southern African Jewish community life in digital form

The rise of the internet has provided unprecedented means for connecting people as well as being a secure repository of information. Many people with a passion to preserve the history of their Southern African Jewish communities have grasped this opportunity with both hands. How have they done it? Nearly 100 people from all over the world are finding out through '**Community History Online**', a Zoom conference presented in three weekly sessions by the South African Jewish Museum and the UCT Kaplan Centre.

Viewers have been enthralled by individuals who have driven projects to find and communicate with the families of those who lived in their hometowns, and to hear how they motivated them to send stories and pictures of their weddings and barmitzvahs, their businesses and pastimes, their synagogues and ministers.

**Geraldine Auerbach** MBE from London kicked off by introducing us to the comprehensive website of the Jewish Community of Kimberley, explaining how it was achieved. **Gary Sussman** from Tel Aviv spoke about his beautiful websites for the 50 to 60-family centre of Vryburg. **Rabbi Ryan Newfield**, appointed in Muizenberg just a month before Covid struck, gave a vivid description of creating a community from scratch. **Juan-Paul Burke** presented an insight into the progress of documenting the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish communities. Attendees were given tips, templates and offers of help to create their own 'virtual cities', recording pasts that might otherwise be lost.

#### Online resources

The wealth of resources in the online archives of the South African Jewish Museum and the Kaplan Centre was described by their archivists **Leila Bloch** and **Katie Garrun**. People were

encouraged to make sure that family or community documents and appurtenances are safely digitised and stored in these places. **Eli Rabinowitz** in Perth Australia, a member of the Board of the International Jewish Genealogical Society, spoke about JewishGen's vast databases and other resources and his many community 'Kehilalinks'.

## Virtual cemeteries

While gravestones are still pristine, the value of photographing them and transcribing them is essential, as visits to South African Jewish cemeteries are not always possible – or even safe - today. **Eric Berger** of the Cape Town Cemeteries Board showed their extraordinary progress from a database of graves to a fundraising platform and a service to the families and the community.

## Social media

Pioneer and role model in the field, **Dave Bloom** of Israel, who during the last 20 years has created a fascinating website celebrating the Zimbabwe Jewish Community, described how he and the community now use Facebook and Zoom as tools to bring people together and elicit stories.

**Gavin Morris**, Director of the South African Jewish Museum in Cape Town, says: 'Our goal has been to connect everyone interested in South African Jewish history and to present an overview of the various approaches being taken in securing our history online. We hope to learn of their triumphs and frustrations so we can create a clear path for others to travel. Already there is interest from individuals willing to start sites for Bloemfontein and Carletonville.'

## Listen again here

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SAJewishMuseum/videos>

Web links related to this conference

Kimberley <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kimberley/Home.html>

Jewish Gen Kehilalinks <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/>

SAJM archives <https://sajmarchives.com/>

Vryburg [Home | Vryburg\\_new \(wixsite.com\)](#) and [The Families | Vryburg Families \(wixsite.com\)](#)

Muizenberg <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/muizenberg/Shul.html>

Zimbabwe Jewish Community <http://zjc.org.il/showpage.php>

Cape Jewish Cemeteries Board <https://www.jewishcemetery.co.za/>

Kaplan Centre archives <http://www.kaplancentre.uct.ac.za/kaplan/research/archival-research-inquiries>

For further information about this series: <https://www.sajewishmuseum.co.za/event-1>

To join the mailing list of Community History On-Line (CHOL) email [info@sajewishmuseum.co.za](mailto:info@sajewishmuseum.co.za)

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