Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter #61 28 April 2024

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London Feedback and Family pictures

It has been so nice to see that many of you have been visiting the Kimberley Virtual Cemetery. When you click on https://kimberley.jewishcemetery.net/ you will see, as below, on the new homepage, all the new pictures that have been uploaded on to the dedicated pages for each person.

Just click the names to see the pictures. There are also messages from you on some of the memorial walls.



I know of a family that at the time of a Barmitzvah, made a point of taking their children down memory lane and introduced them to their ancestors by placing stones on the gravesides of their grandparents in Kimberley and then, reading the family stories (where they exist) that are linked to the graves.

A few of the trees of life are sprouting new leaves that you have bought. We will be passing your donations on to Kimberley for the upkeep of the graves.

Goldenbaum Birthday Party in about 1950 or 51

Myra Goldenbaum sent this lovely picture of either her husband Joseph or his sister Pearly's birthday Party in the garden of their home at 2 Poole Street Kimberley



Myra says Joseph was not sure of everyone but Pearly has supplied more names.

Back row from left: **Denise Woolfson**, **Shelly Hotz**, **Roger David**, **Sandra Diamond**, **Pearly Goldenbaum**, **Marian Schild**, **Pamela Hotz**, **Eric David**

Front from left: standing Ruthie Witepski, Hazel Diamond, David Diamond, Joseph Goldenbaum, Lucille Ginsberg, Gregory Joseph, Errol Joseph, Michael Witepski

Jean Dubowitz wrote about her Kimberley connections:

We have so enjoyed today's program (a CHOL – Community History On-Line seminar about Jewish communities in Ceres, Beaufort West, Brandfort and Stellenbosch) as I am most involved with both my family (Cape Town and Namaqualand) and my husband's family (Beaufort West) genealogy. (We are both South African born.) My husband is a UCT medical graduate of 1969. (See it on www.chol.webite)

I have a Kimberley connection. My late father Dr Israel Faiman who had a Public Health Diploma was the Medical Officer of Health in Kimberley during the polio epidemic 1946 to 1948 when he then left to go to London to specialize in Radiology at the Hammersmith Royal Post Graduate Hospital. I was a baby at this stage and remembered that my parents rented the home of the Dean or the Anglican Bishop of Kimberley while the Dean/ Bishop was recalled to the UK after WW2. I remember my parents talking much about Lilly and Tollie Levy (no children) Alice and Wilhelm Witepski (Children Michael and Ruth) and Nina (Apter) and Hymie Tockar. Many thanks for organizing such a great program and will certainly be attending next week's interesting program Best wishes Jean Faiman Dubowitz and Leslie Dubowitz.

A Kimberley Gathering in the 1980s

Another picture was sent some years ago by Vicky Weinberg. It looks like a reunion of some sort and is dated 20 February 1983

The people in the photo that she was able to identify are:

Back row from left: Les and Val Levisohn (Stein); Hazel Diamond; Ronnie; Hedley; Jenny and Noel; Jill and Brenda Garsh; Lucy and Jeff Frank.

Middle row: Stephanie (Thaw); Sheila Grant and Nita Frank; Merle Sack; Yvonne Thaw; Jinny and Frank Bakker.

Front row: David Diamond, ?, Heather Capon, Robbie Lawson; Marilyn, and Pamela.

Can anybody verify or add?



Marshal Hotz in Israel sent a 'post it note' on his family.

Father Charlie Hotz, Born 1908, Brother to George and Frank Philip Hotz. Went to Egypt 1940 with army. On return 1940 opened Longwears Men's Outfitters shop

Mother Hilda Hotz Born1915, Daughter of Natie and Annie Lincow of Kimberley. Very involved with Habonim, Wizo, Secretary of the Shul. Three children Marshal, Pamela and Rochelle..

Family left Kimberly for Cape Town 1963 and Made Aliya 1981 to join Marshal and family. Charlie died 2002, Hilda 2004. My sister Pam lives at Steenberg Golf Estate and sister Rochelle is in Boston.

Fiddler on the Roof – in Kimberley March 1983

Who remembers the great Beryl Capon and others in the Am Dram shows in Kimberley? These pictures are from the great **Fiddler on the Roof** show that was put on for the benefit of the Union of Jewish Women in Kimberley. **Delia Benn** writes about this exciting episode in Kimberley in March 1983. Click here to read how this came about and see many more pictures of our community actors. https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kimberley/Fiddler.html

You can also explore other **Shows and Productions** by the Kimberley community on this link/





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Last word from Natalie

It is always lovely to hear from **Natalie Sussman**, now living in Cape Town (for the last half century) who says:

I would love to be sitting in your home chatting and expressing all I feel. it has been such a happy connection corresponding about our hometown and the people we know. Cecil enjoyed all the correspondence and bonding with you. We both admired your dedication to this very special task of recording the lives of Kimberley Jewry for posterity and giving us a precious gift of remembrance. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren will have the pleasure of knowing their family background and all due to your perseverance and talent to patiently record the feedback from many expats. And not forgetting the pioneers of the discovery of diamonds which resulted in the growing of a town and the Boer War which changed the history of the country.

Thank you, Geraldine, – and my thanks to Eli (our Webmaster) too.

Natalie also said:

We never realized how much it means to children to know facts about their families. My young great grandchildren, both in London and Australia ask questions on face time and then tell their teachers their family stories. They seem to be the only ones in their classes who know about their great grandparents. All thanks to you.

So once again Thank you.

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