

Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter #66 20 September 2025

The story of the websites for the Kimberley Jewish Community and 'CHOL' – Community History On-Line

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, September 2025

~~~~~



Fig#: The synagogue complex Memorial Road, Kimberley. (Photo Shawn Benjamin Ark Images) Octagonal domed synagogue opened 1902 with matching small community hall. To the right of small hall is the communal hall built in 1940 and to the right of that the Cheder classrooms also but in 1950 with access from Voortrekker Road. In the top right-hand corner is the rabbis house, rebuilt in the 1960s.

One day in 2012, I received an email from a Kimberley expat living in Boston, telling me that the chairman of the Jewish community in Kimberley was asking for money to repair the cemetery wall.

This struck me as strange. If the Chairman needed funds, why was he himself not writing to all the Kimberley expats, explaining the needs. An email list was available to him, compiled by the travelling Rabbi. Why did he not keep in touch with us and keep us interested? What about a newsletter now and then telling us what is happening in Kimberley?

When I finally got through to Arnold Rauff, who was the chair of the burial society in Kimberley, he wrote me a long letter saying why they couldn't possibly produce a newsletter. He told me that there were only four active members of the Kimberley Jewish Community left. He quipped that they

were referred to as the 'Awesome Foursome'. He went on to explain, in great detail, his daily activities and those of his three colleagues, in their business, professional and family lives.

They were all still working full time, despite advancing age; Barney Horwitz, the Chairman in his law practice, David Allan, the President, as a quantity surveyor and Trevor Datnow on his farm. Arnold himself, Trustee in charge of the Chevra Kadisha was running two milling businesses. They also had other duties, contributing to Kimberley civic life, as members of professional organisations and trustees of cultural Institutions such as the theatre, the museum and the art gallery. In addition, they were running the Jewish community. Each Friday night Barney would open the beautiful synagogue and with help from Barry Katz, ran a service. They looked after the cemeteries.

Of course they were doing wonderful things, and keeping the community in Kimberley alive which is much appreciated by those in the city and the ex-pats. But, how could we improve communication. What I decided was that I could turn Arnold's lengthy email into a newsletter and in August 2013, I sent it by email to all the ex-Kimberley people that I could find, as well as to the handful still living there, to see if they wanted to connect with each other. I asked some questions to those who had gone, about when and why they had left Kimberley, where they were living what they were doing so we could compile some data about ourselves.

In the back of my mind, I had the idea that it might be possible someday, to create a website to commemorate the rich Jewish history of Kimberley. We could in this way, document Jewish life from its earliest beginnings on the diamond fields through its heyday in the 1940s to 1970s when there were about 180 Jewish families living there – and when most of us alive today and reading this Newsletter would have known it.

The response was slow but interesting. It gave a microcosm of what Kimberley-ites had achieved and how far they had dispersed. Only one of the first eight respondents was still in South Africa, now living in Cape Town. Two lived in London, two in Israel, one in Canada and one in the USA. (If you are counting, one did not say). Most left straight after school for university or for better work opportunities (coming back only for holidays). Scholastic achievements ranged from matric, to a PhD. Their occupations included a financial analyst, a teacher, an art curator and professor of chemistry. I asked them to summarise growing up in Kimberley in just three words. Their responses varied quite a bit – most saying it was idyllic safe and friendly.

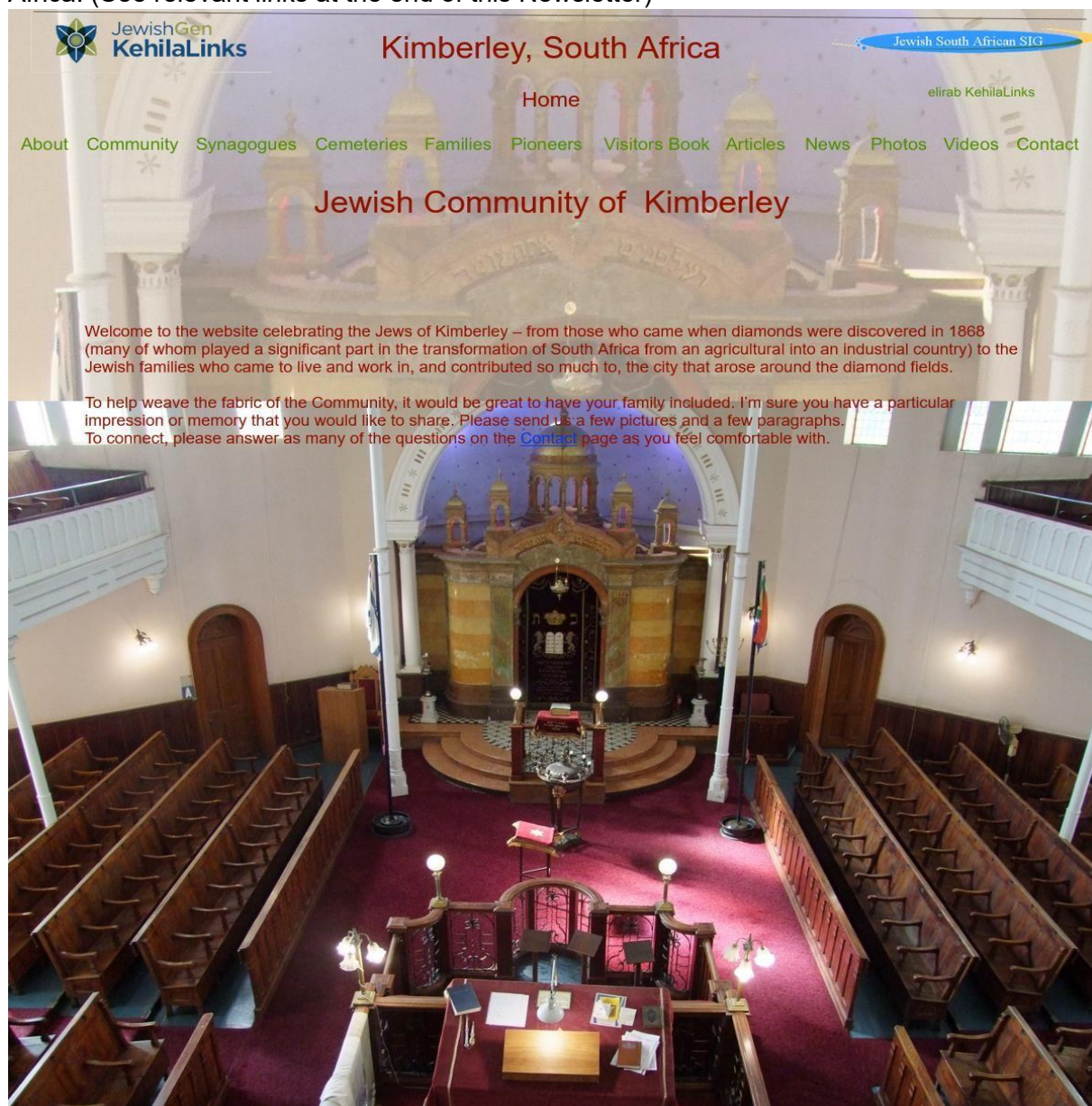
## **A Kimberley Jewish Community website**

I believe that if you wish for something strongly enough, it will surely come to pass. The following year I was able to devise a website for the Kimberley Jewish Community. It was created for me not by a Kimberley person, but by the skill and enthusiasm of Eli Rabinowitz, an ex-South African now living in the far Antipodes, in Perth Australia! When he heard my plea, Saul Issroff in London



who runs the South African section of the Jewish Genealogical Society (JewishGen) put me in touch with Eli. Eli loves documenting communities and has opened several websites for Eastern European settlements and also some South African communities including Muizenberg and Port Elizabeth. He was willing to build one for me for Kimberley. It was fortunate that Eli happened to be coming to London just at that time. He stayed with me at our home, and I had the opportunity of sitting with him long into the night, explaining just how I wanted the site to be structured and how everything had to flow with logical links.

In 2014, the 'Jewish Community of Kimberley', website was hosted by JewishGen and became one of JewishGen's hundreds of *KehilaLinks* (community sites). This gave it a proper home and status together with sites for Jewish towns and villages all over Eastern Europe and others in South Africa. (See relevant links at the end of this Newsletter)



Fig#: The homepage of the KehilaLinks Kimberley Jewish Community website created 2014, showing the interior of the Memorial Road Synagogue (photo David Jawno)

We invited the 'Awesome Foursome' to be honoured patrons of the website. (Sadly, in 2025, they have atrophied to a 'lonesome twosome'!)

**I continued to write newsletters** over the following years, gathering more readers and gleaning more information, always drawing attention to the additions to the website. To date there have been 65 newsletters, and all can be seen and read on the website. They deal with all kinds of subjects: the Spanish flu in Kimberley in 1918; Jabotinsky's visit in 1938; Kimberley's six Jewish mayors; farming around Kimberley; and of course 'Diamonds and Jews' including the 'Great Diamond Robbery' that needed X-Ray for discovery – but too late!

We posted the history of the Kimberley Branch of the Union of Jewish Women that my mother, a life president, had written. In one newsletter we wrote about the unfortunate Kimberley connection to Harry Potter, or rather to the Radcliffe family. In another newsletter I wrote about the beauty and then decay of the Ernest Oppenheimer Gardens and Bust. Was this a metaphor for the city of Kimberley itself, I wondered. The gardens were built in the 1960s in the new civic centre, on the grounds of what used to be the 'Malay Camp', the mainly Coloured and Indian residents of which had been forcibly removed even before the group area act became law – a dubious 'First' for Kimberley.

More and more people with some connections to Kimberley joined the mailing list. I asked about their achievements and experiences in certain fields like sporting life in Kimberley. I was amazed to find not just the cricket, golf, tennis or bowls that I was expecting. There were also champions in weightlifting, pistol shooting, archery, bow hunting, karate, even deep-sea diving and flying microlights. Several youngsters were provincial hockey players and prize-winning equestrians. I also wrote about dancing classes, dance halls and balls.



Kimberley youth at a dance in the communal hall in about 1955. Can anyone name them all?



A few of the newsletters were guest edited by Leon Chonin in Toronto. Leon also wrote articles about Jewish education and the challenges of keeping kosher in Kimberley as well as the business activities of Kimberley Jews. Delia Benn wrote about the fabulous community production of the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* at the Kimberley Theatre in 1983, and about her mother Helen Brown



who had been influential in the cultural life of the city.

Fig#: Children of the Jewish community in Kimberley on stage in *Fiddler on the Roof* in 1983.

Our crowd picnicking at Riverton 1953 or 54



I think these are Norman Friedman a boarder at KHS, Milton Friedman. Norma Levinson, Marcia Frank, behind her Hannah Lurie,

Sarah Cohen, me Geraldine Kretzmer, Maureen Kroll and Barbara Dave. I don't know who the boys behind these last two are, does anybody?

With Leon Chonin and others involved, I wrote about youth activities. There were enough Jewish kids to form a 'crowd' and we had both formal youth club meetings and informal parties and picnics. I was interested to read in the diary that I had kept in my teenage years that I had offered to write a newsletter for our group – even then!

We created sections on the Kimberley website for the history and timeline of Jews in the city. There are stories about the two communities in Kimberley: the diamond magnates largely from Britain and Germany who arrived from the 1850s and who built the opulent Memorial Road Synagogue in 1902, and the Eastern European 'Greeners' who came at the turn of the last century and built a smaller synagogue in Baronial Street, according to their preferences in 1911.

The term 'Greeners', 'Griners' or 'Grinehs' was often applied by others (and indeed by themselves) to the newer immigrants from Eastern Europe who arrived between 1881 and 1925. It comes from the English word 'Greenhorn' indicating less sophisticated and acculturated people). One can read the history of each of these communities and of how they eventually integrated and even take a tour of the exterior and interior of the beautiful Memorial Road Synagogue on the Kimberley Jewish Community website.

Leon Chonin wrote profiles of the religious leaders including his grandfather Lipi Weinstein who had been the lay minister in the 'Greener' Shul for decades. Leon also wrote about Reverend Goldberg who served the community for 30 years as the second in command under seven different rabbis. He fulfilled several roles for the community, as the shochet (ritual slaughterer) and also the mohel (who performed circumcisions) a teacher, an assistant Torah reader and as the cantor who lead the prayers in the synagogue. Leon also wrote about Rabbi Oscar Werner, the spiritual leader that I remember most vividly as he was in post in Kimberley at the height of its glory from 1957 to 1970. He was the one who officiated at my wedding to Ronnie in the Kimberley Memorial Road Synagogue in February 1962 – 63 years ago.

I met Laura Konviser, who now also lives in London, who had a thick file of cuttings about her father-in-law the amazing Rev Maurice Konviser. He was born in Bialystok and came from London to Kimberley in 1927 aged just 25 to be the minister. I wrote the story of how he completely revitalised the community. He went on to Salisbury in 1935 and was later to become the chief Rabbi of Northern and Southern Rhodesia (now Zambia and Zimbabwe).

We wrote about the three synagogues and two communities who had settled in Kimberley and you can learn the history and take a tour of the synagogues on the website.





Fig#: the exterior of the Kimberley Memorial Road Synagogue

We created a wedding gallery on the website with pictures of Kimberley nuptials between 1911 and 2018. All the while we were collecting more family stories which I developed, edited, formatted and illustrated with photographs. I went into the history of my family for the first time and wrote extended pieces about my own parents and their families. Kimberley people have been pleased to see their stories and pictures amongst the hundred and fifty family stories on the website.

Natalie Sussman, who with her husband Cecil (who have both since passed away in their 90s) were great responders, wrote:

*Thank you for devoting so much time and energy to this precious legacy of our family bonded by love spanning over a century in many parts of the globe. You will be regarded with affection for many decades as the storyteller with a gift for telling stories of your hometown and the families who lived there. You have created a magical memory of life a century ago and the spirit of hope which made it possible for our people to survive despite persecution for thousands of years. Our grandchildren and great grandchildren will be thrilled.*



fig#: The banner for the website of CHOL – Community History On-Line

One day I had a pleasant surprise. A son of one of the Kimberley families offered me £2000! As someone who for years had had to go cap in hand wherever I went, trying to raise funds for the Jewish Music Institute, this was a complete reversal of fortunes. But I had not required any funding for the Kimberley website. It had all been done as a labour of love. I was non-plussed and not sure what to do with it. I discussed this with the donor, who said he was impressed with what I had done for Kimberley and especially for the members of his own family whose stories we had developed together. He wanted to say thank you in this way.

I had to think hard about what I could do with this unexpected gift that would help to continue the work. I decided to get in touch with the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town (UCT). I wondered whether if I gave them a few hundred pounds they might be able to find somebody to continue research into the Kimberley community, if and when I had to stop. Professor Adam Mendelsohn did not think so, but he introduced me to Gavin Morris, originally from Bloemfontein, the director of the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM).

In discussion on Zoom with Adam and Gavin with their archivists and with Eli Rabinowitz, we realised that several people from other South African centres were also looking at ways of commemorating and documenting their communities online. We felt it would be useful if we could connect everyone, enabling us to learn from each other. In this way we could avoid pitfalls, share information and develop standards and protocols.

## **CHOL – Community History On-Line**

In 2020, we decided to set up an entity called 'CHOL' it would be an international forum for those involved with commemorating Southern African Jewish 'Community History On-Line'. In this forum, under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre and Jewish Museum, in Cape Town, I felt that we could get to know each other, find out about our challenges and triumphs and encourage new initiatives and activity.

The following year we arranged some international Zoom seminars hosted by Gavin Morris at the South African Jewish Museum. There were presentations about Kimberley, Muizenberg and Vryburg. There were talks on old Johannesburg and on medical graduates of Wits in 1960, and general practitioners and pharmacists in the Northern suburbs of Cape Town in the 50s to 80s.



## Share Your Stories

Gail Lustig, who gave this last presentation, got in touch with me. Her father had been a General Practitioner in Bellville and she herself had just retired from practicing family medicine in Israel. She said she loved writing stories and added that she knew several others who also wrote stories. She suggested she would like to host a session called 'Share Your Stories', where the writers could read their stories to each other. I

welcomed Gail's suggestion. Stories fill a significant gap between history and memoir and give real flavour and emotion.

She invited her story-writing friends to send her their stories and to read them to the group. There was great enthusiasm for this. By the end of the year, Gail had collected over 50 stories. This led us to wonder how we could 'publish' and preserve them. Neither the Kaplan Centre nor the Jewish Museum felt able to oblige. They said they had no suitable place on their websites. That meant only one thing. We had to create our own CHOL website. Fortunately, Abraham (Bramie) Lenhoff, who was born and went to school in the Northern Cape, and who had made a website for his home town Upington, offered to build the CHOL website for us. (Bramie is still working as a senior Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Delaware, USA.)

Building the CHOL website [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website) with Gail and Bramie has been a real joy. We used as page banners some of Gail's photographs of flowers of South Africa. By September 2025, we can, all in one place, find out so much about South African Jewish history. Gail has collected and Bramie posted 175 original stories. Some you can also see being read by their authors. On the CHOL website, there are also 63 personal memoirs varying from ten pages to several hundred pages. You can search them for topics that interest you.

I am so pleased that one can already also read about 58 different Southern African Jewish communities stretching from Cape Town to Mauritius – and alphabetically from Beaufort West to Zimbabwe. Some like Brandfort and Riversdale, are simple pdf documents, and others are sophisticated deeply navigable websites full of rich content like Vryburg, Kimberley and Parow. Others still need further development. They all feature the timelines, the activities and some personalities of the towns.

## A Template for a Jewish Community Website



For the CHOL website, I developed a particularly useful and simple template to create a site for a community. Bramie and I are very happy to help any individuals who want to make a lasting commemoration for their community and who can provide the information. I can easily edit and format the material in the most effective way and Bramie can upload it. You can view the websites we have made for enthusiasts from Beaufort West, Belville, Caledon, Ceres, Malmesbury, Maitland, Oudtshoorn, Stellenbosch and Woodstock. (See link at the end of the Newsletter)

## **CHOL presentations**

For one series of the CHOL international Zoom international seminars I suggested we focus on South African individuals who had been involved with music. Eight different people spoke about a great variety of activity. One spoke on Jascha Heifetz tour of South Africa in 1938, another on *King Kong*, the all-black musical and it's all Jewish production team in 1958. Lyricist Herbert Kretzmer's daughter spoke about her father's life in music. I felt it was appropriate that I spoke about my journey in Jewish music. This included the fact that I had created a South African Jewish Music Centre in Cape Town in the early 1990s with some wonderful scholars and musicians. It still exists and has strong ongoing connections with the library at Stellenbosch University. The librarian for the Special collections was one of the speakers.

Another of our Zoom seminar series profiled Mark Wade and Alan Swerdlow's extraordinary films about Jews in South Africa; *Legends and Legacies*. Each film was about a different aspect of Jewish life including history, politics, education and the arts. Forty-one international meetings, so far, have been recorded and placed on the South African Jewish Museum website. All our seminar sessions can be accessed on the CHOL website under Presentations. All the 'Share Your Stories' live sessions are there too. There are also resources listed and journal articles on the website. All this builds up a rich online picture of Jewish life in Southern Africa in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

We reach over 650 people with our monthly Newsletters (which can all be read on the CHOL website). Some have been guest edited, eg Professor Richard Mendelsohn wrote about the Jews of Parow and David Saks featured the outstanding magazine *Jewish Affairs*. Others were compiled by Gail on stories about Israel after October 7 and I have compiled some highlighting the additions to the website.

I was delighted to see that the injection of cash from my donor had brought together so many people from all over the world, all interested in South African Jewish community history. The money has led to some wonderful activities and adventures, involving so many places and the people who lived there. This activity is surely safeguarding the history of many communities.

But none of this had actually required any funds at all. Just the thought of the money was the catalyst for all this to happen. So, I still had to think about what do with the £2000? What I decided

in the end was to donate £500 each to the Kaplan Centre and the Jewish Museum to aid their digitising programmes. I also donated £500 to the South African Friends of Beit Hatefutsoth who have done such sterling, pioneering work in researching *Jewish Life in South African Country Communities*. They are working to have their seventh volume ready for publication in 2025. I also purchased all of their books.

And what about the cemetery wall? This is where my Kimberley saga had begun 2012! Barney Horwitz had told me in 2022 that for the umpteenth time vandals/thieves had broken down about a third of the boundary wall and stolen the bricks and he told me 'we have to rebuild it, which means we have to raise funds'.

How many times, I wondered, can one repair the wall when the cemetery abuts an informal settlement (squatter camp) and they need the bricks? Barney also said that in the first lockdown, thieves broke into the burial hall and stole the contents. Thereafter the doors, windows and half the roof were taken. He said the situation was so bad for all cemeteries in Kimberley that Christians nowadays are being cremated and having their ashes interred inside their churches.

Both my parents and three of my grandparents are lying undisturbed in the Kimberley cemeteries. The last time we visited Kimberley was when we raised the tombstone to our father at the end of 1998. He had moved from Kimberley to Johannesburg when he was 90 years old, after my mother died in 1989. He lived there, closer to his son and family, until he died at 98, but he wanted to be buried in Kimberley next to his beloved Beryl.



Kimberley



Fig#: Our late daughter Loren and I after the unveiling of my father's tombstone at the Kimberley cemetery in December 1998 where he and Beryl lie side by side in Kimberley.

I have lived in London since 1962, when I was 22. Our three children were born here. We used to go to Kimberley regularly when they were little, to have quality time with their grandparents. A tractor tyre was used to make a sandpit under the jacaranda tree. A putting green was fashioned on the tennis court for the children who enjoyed these. They also loved eating apricots, figs and grapes straight from the trees and vines.

If I travel to South Africa these days, it is to see my brother and his family at their home in Johannesburg or on holiday in Plettenberg Bay. A trip to Kimberley is not on our itinerary. We have no family left there and even if I wanted to visit the cemetery now, I would have to enlist an armed guard to take me.

### **A virtual cemetery for Kimberley**

However, I had another idea of how to be able to visit and pay respects to my family lying there. I had noticed that the Cape Town Cemeteries Board, very much a living entity (if you excuse the paradox) had created an exceptional interactive cemetery website. Here at the touch of a button you could search for a friend or family, see the memorial, leave a stone to show that you had visited and even upload a message to the family and a photograph of the deceased.

I longed to have that sort of facility for the Kimberley Jewish cemeteries to enable all the expats, wherever we are, to tune in day or night and commune with our loved ones in complete safety. I wanted to grasp the opportunity while the cemeteries were still in reasonable condition and the tombstones were still standing. I had no idea how to achieve this or what it might cost.

Once CHOL seminars got underway, I invited the secretary of the Cape Town Cemeteries Board to give a presentation on his interactive cemetery website. He told us that it had been devised by Larry Galansky to help his father Sam who was the chairman of the Board to raise funds for the maintenance of the cemeteries in Cape Town. I asked for an introduction to Larry.

Larry was very happy to meet me and ready to roll out this facility for Kimberley, and indeed for any other South African Jewish cemetery. I was thrilled. There are a thousand graves in the two Kimberley Jewish cemeteries. Burials started in the 1870s and have continued until today. I had several Zoom meetings with Larry and his technology team. All they needed from me was a set of good quality photographs of the gravestones.

I knew just the person for that task. It was Shawn Benjamin, who had grown up in Kimberley and who was a professional photographer with his own business called Ark Images in Cape Town. He

had long wanted to do this and had already taken many pictures of the synagogue and other Jewish sites whenever he had visited Kimberley. He was very pleased to be asked to do this task.

When he went to Kimberley in December 2022, he was pleased to stay with his best friend Trevor Datnow on his farm. There had, quite unusually for Kimberley, been a lot of rain. There was lush growth of grass and shrubs obscuring many of the gravestones. Trevor and others in Kimberley assisted Shawn by providing a team of gardeners and cleaners as well as an armed guard to get the job done. (Barney Horwitz was out of town at the time.)



Fig#: Hired staff clearing the undergrowth and soil from the gravestones in the Kimberley Old Cemetery Stead Street

Fortunately, the donor who had offered me the initial £2000 because he was impressed with the Kimberley website, was willing to help again and he agreed to fund Shawn's visit to Kimberley and the various amendments to the Cape Town website that I wanted for Kimberley, particularly to connect the family stories that we had on the Kimberley website to the individual grave pages.

In February 2024 I invited Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the Minister for South African Small Communities to a Zoom meeting to 'bless' the enterprise and launch the Kimberley Virtual Cemetery. Several ex-Kimberley people from around the world spoke about their family members buried there, while I showed the relevant pages of the virtual cemetery.



Larry Galansky, whose ingenuity and generosity created the site for us was also a special guest speaker. Cherille Berman from Boston spoke about the Maresky family, Trevor Toubé in London talked about the Blumenthals and Toubes. Norma and Milton Friedman in Los Angeles spoke about Ethyl and Solly Ginsburg and the Brenner girls. Gail Lustig in Tel Aviv told us how she had solved the mystery of the Kimberley gravestone of a Maurice Antonis of Cape Town who had drowned aged 17 in the Vaal River. She discovered that he was part of her family and from newspaper cuttings of the time, found that he had been visiting friends in Kimberley when the tragedy occurred.

## Welcome to the Virtual Cemetery of the Kimberley Jewish Community

(Click the link above to go to the website.)

Please enter and explore...



[Home](#)

[Buy some Leaves](#)

[Place a Stone](#)

[Upload a Picture](#)

[Post a Message](#)

[Donate](#)

[Contact Us](#)

### DEDICATED PAGE

### BERYL KRETZMAR

**DIED 9 Jul 1989**

[Place a Stone](#) >

[Buy some Leaves on Tree of Life](#) >

[Write on the Wall](#) >



**Known as**

née Bergman. Wife of Noel,  
father of Theodore and  
Geraldine

**Family Connections**

**Death Date** 6 Tammuz 5749 (9 Jul 1989)

**Age at Death** 79

**Cemetery** Kimberley, Green Street

**More info link** [Kretzmar, Beryl \(née Bergman\)](#)

### CLICK STONE TO ENLARGE



Hover over stones to see visitors

### MEMORIAL WALL

Hi Ma - At last I can visit you in peace .....

Geraldine Auerbach

24 November 2023

[Leave a message](#)

### TREE OF LIFE



BERYL KRETZMAR

Hover over leaves to see donors

This Virtual cemetery has been created for the Kimberley Jewish Heritage Group (KJHG) by Larry Galansky in honour of his father Sam Galansky. Grateful thanks go to Larry from Kimberley Residents and Ex-Pats.

It is connected to the [Kimberley Jewish Community Website](#), created by Geraldine Auerbach and Eli Rabinowitz from 2013 which documents the history of Diamond City Jews with historic timelines, family stories, and religious, business and cultural life. Click the link above. (If you would like your Kimberley family story included, send details to [Kimberley Jewish Heritage Group](#)).

The Kimberley Jewish Community website and Virtual Cemetery are both constituents of CHOL – Southern African Jewish 'Community History On-Line'. Click on the CHOL logo (right) to connect to [www.chol.website](#).





Fig#: as an example, this is the page for my mother Beryl Kretzmar on the Kimberley Virtual Jewish Cemetery. See link at the end of the Newsletter.

Barney Horwitz thanked the creators of the site and hoped that many would support him on the ground in Kimberley by buying leaves on the trees in this Virtual Cemetery. The meeting ended with a virtual 'tour' of the synagogues in Kimberley. A recording of this Virtual Cemetery 'blessing' and launch can be seen, as presentation number 25, on the CHOL website.

I was very pleased with the outcome and felt that I had created a peaceful and meaningful space. All those with relatives resting in the Kimberley cemetery, can now pay respects and linger awhile with their loved ones. It is more than a cemetery because from this site, there is a link to the family histories which 'flesh' out a greater picture of the Kimberley Jewish Community. There are also links to Jono David's photographs of the cemetery so you can take a walk among the trees and gravestones.

I have to say I am disappointed in the footfall at the Kimberley Virtual Jewish Cemetery. Even though it is so easy to get there at the click of button and it requires no expenditure or trips to airports or queues for planes, and it does not require an armed guard – it still seems that people don't really care to, or don't have time to visit their parents and grandparents at the Kimberley virtual cemetery. What message can we draw from this?

Barney works so hard to keep the physical cemeteries in Kimberley in order. By buying leaves – or buying more leaves this year – on the 'tree of life' of your ancestors, the funds would go to help Barney. But apart from a little flutter at the beginning, there has been very little activity. Most pictures added I have done myself. You have not left any messages or any trace that you have been. It costs nothing to leave a stone by the grave to show that you have visited.

Maybe now as we bravely enter a Jewish New Year with the world in all kinds of turmoil and Jews in a particularly parlous state, your thoughts may turn to your parents and Kimberley and to support Barney and those valiantly looking after the Jewish heritage of Kimberley. For my part I am very gratified that the Kimberley Virtual Cemetery exists, as part of the community website, and that the gravestones were photographed when it was looking verdant and healthy. I do not really mind if there is no wall around it, as long as the bodies are left in peace.

---

### Further reading:

Kimberley Virtual Cemetery <https://kimberley.jewishcemetery.net/>

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

Kimberley 65 Newsletters <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kimberley/News.html>

CHOL – Community History On-Line CHOL website [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website)

---

## Feedback

Dear Geraldine

A big thank you for your newsletter number 66.

It is a wonderful exposition of your Kimberley history efforts and something of which you can be proud. I take this opportunity of wishing you Ronnie and your family a *shanna tova* and may the year ahead be a healthy, peaceful and one of continuing activity and success.

Kind regards, Selwyn

~~~~~

Hi Geraldine,

I am sad to say that my mom Lorraine passed away last Friday September 12th. She suffered a stroke in April, but recovered quite well from it, and was active and alert till the end. I was fortunate to be able to spend 3 weeks with her in May when I visited with my brother, two of my kids, and a nephew. It was a long goodbye, poignant but meaningful for all of us. I will be going to Cape Town next week to deal with various things, and we'll have a memorial and celebration of her life. This is how I will remember her:



I did visit my great grandfather Abraham David's grave in the Kimberley Virtual Jewish Cemetery and made a contribution. I appreciate your efforts and I remember Barney fondly.

I have a book recommendation for you. It's a collection of stories by South African writers translated from Yiddish by Joseph Sherman, with an introduction by Dan Jacobson, my dad

Bob's friend and classmate at KHS. It's titled *From A Land Far Off*. The stories contain many reminders of the unique mixture of black South Africans, Afrikaners, Jews and Gentiles that made up the world of the generations before us, familiar, sometimes amusing, but also unvarnished and harsh. (you can get it on AbeBooks)

Kind regards, Rick David

~~~~~

Thank you for an interesting newsletter. With the Jewish world under attack, it's at times like this that I think of the community in Kimberley that was my home for 29 years: Peaceful, unified and strong. Thank you for your dedication with writing so many newsletters over the years. Best wishes for a Peaceful New Year and Well over the Fast.

Kind regards, Dee Reddan

~~~~~

Dear Geraldine

I am sorry to learn of your disappointment re the response you received from the virtual cemetery which was beautifully done. When we left Kimberley, I was a member of the Chev and had been for, I think for 21 years the last 10 years as President. I was very honoured to be bestowed with life membership and hope to use this honour for as long as I can. Before we left Kimberley I took photographs of Grave Stones and with a letter of appeal for funds sent to about 90 ex Kimberley-ites whose family were buried in Kimberley.

I know how you feel because the response was very poor. I realised then one can't make people care. Peter Neethling (I'm sure you will recall him) our caretaker, actually told me of a family who used to come and visit the graves of their family and instruct him not to tell us that they had been. I usually go to Kimberley before Yomtov but haven't this year as our children think its too dangerous.

Kind regards, Arnold Bayer.