

Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter no 31, 4 October 2020

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Dear Friends

I hope you are keeping well and safe and also sane – as some of us dive into a second wave of coronavirus infection, and others may be coming out of it.

How did you spend the High Holydays 2020?

It would be interesting to know how you celebrated (or not) Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in these strange times. What did your synagogue (if you have one) decide to do? And how did it work out? It would indeed be fascinating to hear your experiences, and we can share them in the next Newsletter.

This year I have tuned in to my own synagogue – Belsize Square Synagogue, London, which was open for a restricted small number of congregants. Our services are always live-streamed and archived so one can always tune in whenever you want and from wherever you are. It is an independent synagogue created in 1939 by Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. The service is based on the German 'Liberale' tradition, which is quite close to orthodox but with the rich Sulzer and Lewandowsky music, sung with choir and a small organ. This is what it looked like this year. The Rabbi and Cantor sat behind plastic screens and wore masks when they were not speaking or singing! In their archives, you can still see their services and even hear my granddaughter Daisy chanting her Maftir and Haftorah for the Shabbat Naso in June. <http://www.synagogue.org.uk/services/live/>



Of course, this year, as we were 'voting with our fingertips', there was plenty of choice on offer. One was able to be a part of 24 hours of Yom Kippur services livestreamed from Australia to California.

I enjoyed a service from the

Central Synagogue - in New York. They have a most inspiring half Chinese rabbi Angela Buchdahl and great cantors Dan Mutlu and Julia Cadrain. In this short clip, they are singing Hashkivenu, virtually, with their congregation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqtK2VfZWkl>. And here below is their whole yizkor service on Yom Kippur <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlKIm3-ycFk>.

Central in New York is a reform synagogue. If you prefer the orthodox style, I loved a beautiful 'Taste of Yom Kippur' from the Gates of Heaven Synagogue, **Shaar Hashomayim, in Montreal**. This synagogue was inaugurated in 1859 as a synagogue of English, German and Polish Jews. They wanted their services to be like those in the great synagogue Duke's Place in London. And this was where my friend Stephen Glass from Wembley was the music Director for 20 years, training the choirs and choosing the wonderful cantor, Gideon Zelmeyer. https://vimeo.com/462330816?fbclid=IwAR18D7F3r-1MxBW1Edvtj1XdOSnXkz6Yy0UFRFieCj2jJ6aYW7wAlF1Rp_0

I also listened to an excellent Sermon and music from the **Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5LxymVLkQqE>. Interestingly, the President of this huge Hollywood congregation spoke with a South African accent – and I heard the same accent from speakers at other synagogues too. We do get everywhere!

Many communities have put a huge amount of thought and effort into these on-line offerings and provided the highest quality of presentation (specially those in California, who have film people in their communities). Many services included women cantors, who are beautiful, and their voices carry deep emotion.

South Africans might also have tuned in to hear the clip of 40 South African rabbis and cantors singing Avinu Malkenu <https://www.ipost.com/diaspora/40-south-african-rabbis-unite-to-sing-rosh-hashanah-prayer-and-go-viral-642782>

I hope you all found something uplifting and thought-provoking. Let me know if you found something special on the internet for the High Holydays and send me the link.

We hope that the Kimberley community also had meaningful services and experiences in our beautiful shul in Kimberley. We send our good wishes to all.

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Kimberley Jews in the Second World War



Our Kimberley 'boys' did not talk much about their war experiences. But thanks to all the families that have remembered their few words and found evocative pictures, I have been able to put together, with some extra research, quite a comprehensive story of what it must have been like for Kimberley families in those war years between 1939 and 1945.

Before we post it on the website, please look at the full document (attached) to see that I have accurately observed or interpreted what you have sent me. Also, see if you can identify any other people in any of the pictures. Please open the attachment to see it.

I have certainly learned a lot through compiling this article. I have added some information about where and when the battles that our young men had to contend with took place. I have also written about how South Africa entered the War in the first place – as it was touch and go – and on which side!!

I am in awe of the brave men and women who lived through it all. Looking at war documentaries of battles in the Western Desert and Italy recently, we get some insight into how horrendous an experience was. As Natalie Sussman said. 'There is no glory in war'.

We must surely feel grateful that our boys helped to liberate Europe, and who knows where else, from the scourge of Hitler. It's amazing to read their stories – some of which contain some really heartrending stuff, and some have some unexpected humour.

(The handsome 'boy' in the photograph above with his medals is Cecil Sussman – there are many more pictures like this in the article attached.)

Kimberley's Jewish contribution:



Of the fifty Kimberley Jewish men who volunteered for active service (and thankfully all came home alive) we have so far, received thirty-six stories, some just a few lines and some a couple of pages, about how they fared. They are listed in alphabetical order below. When you have looked at what we have written in the document, and it has then all been corrected – I will try to add page numbers for ease of future reference and publish this article on the website.

Above we see Ivor Haas, left, then someone unidentified, next Harry Klein and Charlie Hotz. I don't have any information about Harry or Charlie's time in the army. And I still need information on the service stories of Jack Frank, Jules Katz, Goldie Mehl and Poddy Shein. Also there are approximately ten others that we have not yet discovered. After this last round of additions and corrections, that I will make if you write to me straight away, the article will be posted on the website. If you do have information you would like to add to this saga, this is a good time to do it.

The participants that we have heard about are categorised below in this table under Airforce, Navy, Army and Medical Corps, and their rank (where I can ascertain that). Please check if this information is correct – here and in the whole article, which is attached.

Table of Kimberley Jews who participated on active service

	Name	Service and rank	Page
1	Alufowitz Solly	Army – PoW in Italy and escapee	
2	Apter Alec	Air Force – Bomber Pilot	
3	Apter Lionel	Medical Corps – Captain	
4	Apter Mendel	Navy – Petty Officer	
5	Benjamin Basil	Army – Natal Carbineers, Sapper	
6	Blumenthal Bob	Army – PoW in Italy	
7	Brown Ikky	Air Force – Photographer	
8	Cohen Cecil	Army – Kimberley Regiment, Warrant Officer 2	
9	Cohen Eric	Air Force – Pilot in the RAF	

10	David Louis	Army – Kimberley Regiment	
11	Finberg Micky	Air Force – Gunner, Bomb-aimer, Lieutenant	
12	Friedman Joe	Army – Judge Advocate of Natal, Major	
13	Gluck Maurice	Airforce – Bomber Command	
14	Ginsberg Solly	Army – 6SAAD, Artillery	
15	Goldberg Abraham	Medical Corps – 2SAAD under Montgomery	
16	Goldberg Issie	Airforce – Maintenance, Sergeant	
17	Goldman Buddy	Air Force – Pilot for troops and ammunition, Captain	
18	Goldman Vernon	Air Force – Pilot 24 Squadron, Major	
19	Haas Ivor	Air Force – Mechanic	
20	Haberfeld Cyril	Army – Staff Sergeant EM, military commendation	
21	Hecht Fritz	Army – Kimberley Regiment	
22	Hertog, Lucien	Army – Kimberley Regiment	
23	Horwitz Roy	Army – 6 th South African Armoured Division	
24	Joseph Philip	Air Force – Pilot training Kimberley	
25	Kretzmar Ashne	Air Force – Adjutant	
26	Kretzmar Julius	Medical Corps, Captain	
27	Kretzmar Noel	Red Cross, Medical Practitioners Pool	
28	Lenhoff Misha	Air Force – RAF Bomber Command	
29	Lewis S Mitchell	Medical Corps – Namibia	
30	Maresky Shimon	Army – Anti-aircraft, Wounded	
31	Odes Solly	Army – Kimberley Regiment, 6SAAD Private MM	
32	Senderovitz Mike	Army – Scottish Regiment	
33	Sussman Cecil	Army – 6SAAD	
34	Tobiansky Woolfie	Air Force – PoW Guard	
35	Tooch Joe	Army – 6SAAD Captured at Tobruk, PoW in Italy	
36	Toube Abie	Army – Quartermaster, 2 Air Depot	

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New family stories on the website

Since you last may have looked at the 'Families' pages on the website, you will notice that we have added several new stories for Kimberley's some-time residents. If you click the names below, that are links – you will go straight to their stories, or you can see the whole list of over 100 families, here <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kimberley/Families.html> . There are also many new wedding photos on the wedding galleries, [family weddings](#)

[Apter, Mendel](#)



This story has pictures of Mendel and Winnie and their family and another lovely story written by Hector Kleinot. This one is called '***Drambuie does not taste good a second time***'. It is about the time Mendel invited Hector to help him clear his famous Bar at his house in Memorial Road, before Mendel and Winnie left Kimberley for Johannesburg. Hector wrote it as a sort of eulogy for the man he loved and respected. He sent it to the family after Mendel had sadly died of lung cancer, at a young age, soon after leaving Kimberley

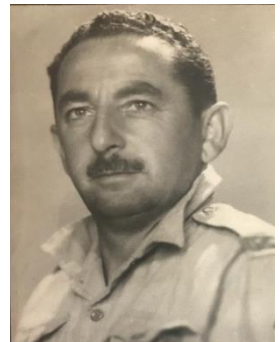
[Berman \(nee Brown\), Cherille](#)

Cherille has updated the questionnaire she originally filled in, with a full story. It includes lovely family pictures and memories of her time in Kimberley. The picture of Cherille's wedding, in 1972, is the first picture of a wedding in colour! We are now working on the stories of Delia, Cherille and Jennifer's grandparents – the Maresky family on their mother Helen's side, and the Brown family on their father Ikky's side. (seen on the right of the wedding picture on the steps of the synagogue) (The wedding galleries have also had several more wedding pictures added.) (Lance if you want to write about Ivor Brown – this is your chance.



[David, Louis and Connie](#)

Since we first posted this story, almost the whole of Louis and Connie David's son Bobby's family has been in touch. Rick David in San Francisco, Lorraine and Bobby's second (of four) sons, has collected and sent pictures and stories of the family over many years. These include of eldest son Anthony, who sadly passed away in 2000 at 47. We see the swimming pool at 65 Carrington Road, where Lorraine had her swimming school. We also see the beautiful Villas on the Costa del Sol in Spain which Aubrey David, architect and younger son of Louis and Connie, designed and built, arguably starting the trend for British people to live in Spain for part of the year. (Picture above right is of Louis David in uniform in 1943.)



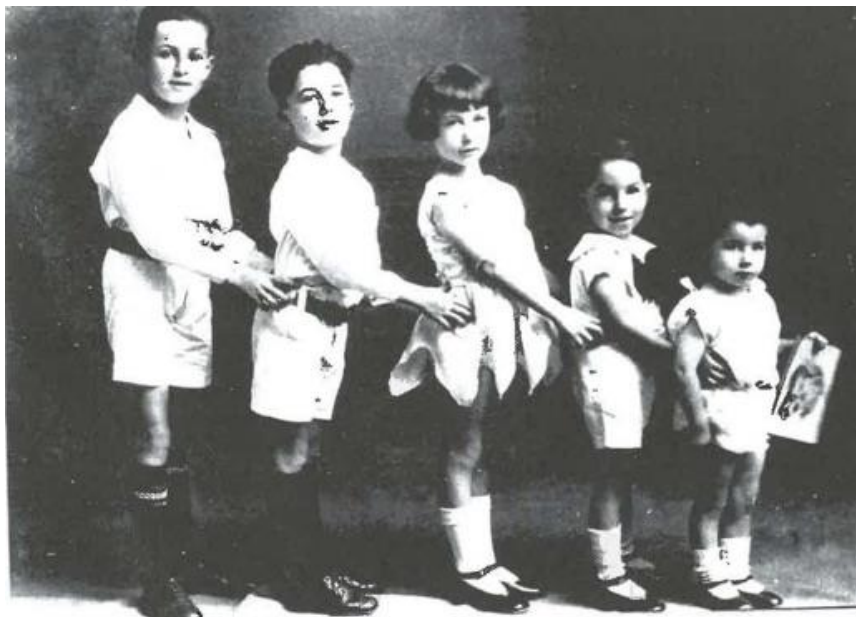
[Diamond Family](#)

This story of the Diamond Family, the six siblings: Sonia, Ray, Saul (Solly), Barney, Aaron (Beady) and Ivan, was supplied by Sonia's daughter Shirley Talerman – née Silkiner. There is also a tribute to Beady and Flo's daughter, Sandy Diamond who passed away nearly two years ago. New on that page, sent by his son David Diamond, is an article and a picture from the DFA of **Beady Diamond and the famous Dobbin** – the iconic horse that always stood at Kimberley Saddlery. This was in the paper in 1964, at the time when Beady finally sold his business. There is also the picture of Beady on the shul committee at the inauguration of Rabbi Werner in 1957. Werner was our second longest serving Rabbi, from 1957 to 1970. We have now identified



all but one (in the front row) of the committee lined up for this special occasion. See more about Rabbi Werner here: [Werner, Rabbi Oscar, Tributes by Leon Chonin & Bernard Werner](#)

[Goldberg, Abe](#)



Abe was the eldest son of Deborah and Solomon Goldberg who ran a dairy in Kimberley. Abe excelled at CBC and went to UCT to become a doctor. His army service is fully described as well as his later adventures in farming and his many other exploits. He had a full life until 99 years old. You can also read more about his parents and siblings (seen here with Abe far left) including his musical sister, Gertie Goldberg (centre) who married Ivor

Haas, on the family story [Goldberg, Solomon, Deborah & Family](#)

[Hertog, Lucien](#)

Lucien Hertog was a part of three prominent Kimberley families (**Hertog, Harris and Cohen**). His mother, **Lilly, née Cohen** from Port Elizabeth, was the sister of amazing Gussie Sussman - see [Sussman, Philip and Augusta \(nee Cohen\)](#). Lucien was adopted by Lilly's second husband Charles Edward **Hertog**, who was the legal advisor to De Beers. Charles was a widower – his first wife had been Elise Harris, who had also died. She was the daughter of diamond pioneer, magnate and distinguished soldier, Colonel Sir David **Harris**. Another sister of Lilly's was Gladys whose husband, Mr Rosenstrauch was in the diamond business. They were parents of twin sons Henry and Andrew and a daughter Eva Rosenstrauch. (We would love to have more information on this family for our Kimberley website.) The picture is of Lucien trooping the colours of the **Kimberley Regiment**.



[Lewis, Coleman and Family](#)

Coleman Lewis married Fanny, the younger sister of the well-respected Dr Solomon Zweiback (1882 – 1943). Cole Lewis' grandson, Raymond Lewis, has sent a great story about his grandparents, and about his father and uncle who went to CBC in Kimberley and became well known doctors in the UK after the war. He also writes about Dr Zweiback on the same page [Zweiback, Solomon](#) (Interesting to me was that the name of the young Rabbi at the Stephen Wise Temple in Los Angeles that I listened to on Yom Kippur, and

who gave an excellent sermon, is Yossie Zweiback. I wonder if he is related to our Dr Solomon?)

Odes, Solly, Sheila and Family



We were delighted to hear from the Odes children in Canada. Solly was a real war hero and won the Military Medal for Bravery. They sent a loving story about Solly in the war and about Solly and Shela's life in Kimberley and in Canada. Here is their gorgeous picture of Solly and Sheila.

I hope you have taken pleasure in connecting or reconnecting with these families. If you want to be in touch with any of these (or other families) then please contact me geraldine.auerbach@gmail.com with your email address and I will pass it on to them

The Kimberley Jewish Community Website – Eli Rabinowitz



It's wonderful that people with Kimberley connections are finding us and asking to be remembered on the Kimberley Jewish Community website, which has become a beacon of excellence for such endeavours.

I am so grateful to **Eli Rabinowitz** in Perth, Australia, who has worked closely with me every step of the way. He carefully posts all your information and stories onto the site once I have compiled, edited and formatted them. This website is a beacon of excellence within the family of Jewish Genealogy's Kehilalinks, where many people can find it.

Thank you so much Eli, for all you do for the website – and for the many other towns and cities in South Africa and Eastern Europe that

you document. Recently Eli was appointed as a member of the Board of Jewish Genealogy – we send our congratulations to you Eli.

Support the Kimberley Synagogue

Each year at this time, I remind you that our Kimberley synagogue is unique in many ways. Although we may be far away from Kimberley, the internet brings us together. Our repositories of photos of the synagogue and the graves, and family stories on the website, keep Kimberley and the lives we lived there with our families, alive.

But we must surely think about the responsibilities of those left in Kimberley. We should all try to help them in their endeavour to look after the buildings and the cemeteries so that our loved ones can rest in peace. We are no longer paying our Kimberley synagogue subscriptions, therefore, please take a moment to send your donation to Barney Horwitz and show him your appreciation for what he and his tiny team dedicate themselves to doing – for all our sakes.

We should all send not only our love and thanks, but also a 'tachlis' token to help in this sacred work.

The Shul's banking details for a bank transfer are:

BANK: STANDARD BANK KIMBERLEY
NAME OF ACC: GW HEBREW CONGREGATION
BRANCH CODE: 050002
ACCOUNT NO: 040054446
Swift Code: SBZAJJ

Barney says: We have in excess of 600 graves to look after in both cemeteries and we are a small community, so any donations in this regard would be greatly appreciated. Wishing you all Shana Tova, well over the fast and a pandemic-free 5781.
Contact Barney if you have any queries

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