



Next CHOL Events

September Seminars

Tuesdays 10, 17 and 23 September 2024 7.00pm South African time

(10.00am California; 1.00pm New York; 6.00pm UK; 7.00pm South Africa, Europe; 8.00pm Israel)

- 10 September: Naomi Schamroth Rapeport
South African Second World War veterans' role in the fledgling State of Israel
- 17 September: Danielle Lockwood
Herbert Kretzmer OBE - From Kroonstad via Fleet Street to Les Mis
- 24 September: Professor Richard Mendelsohn
Commemorating the Jews of Parow, a microcosm of South African Jewry.

To join info@chol.website

More details of CHOL September Seminars

10 September: Naomi Schamroth Rapeport

South African Second World War veterans' role in the fledgling State of Israel

During the Second World War, over 10 000 Jewish men and women volunteers served in the Union Defence Force. Many had distinguished military careers. In 1948 when the State of Israel was proclaimed, amongst 800 volunteers from South Africa were numerous war veterans, who contributed to the military success of the State. Many held major positions, particularly in the Israeli Air Force, 505 Squadron – Radar, and in the field of medicine.

Naomi Schamroth Rapeport, was the first woman clinician in private practice in Johannesburg where she was active and honoured in medicine and medical politics uniting clinicians of all races. She is married to cardiologist Colin Schamroth, (son of Professor Leo Schamroth) and mother of cardiologist and financial analyst daughters. Since retirement, Naomi has volunteered at the South African Jewish Museum archives and was an advisor to Mark Wade and Alan Swerdlow who produced the film series *Legends and Legacies*. For the past 3 years she has been collating the profiles of over 3,000 Jewish South African men and women who served in the Second World War, for the Chaim Herzog Museum in Latrun, Israel. She has also written about the Jewish doctors who contributed to Baragwanath Hospital.

17 September: Danielle Lockwood

Herbert Kretzmer OBE – From Kroonstad via Fleet Street to Les Mis

Journalist and lyricist Herbert Kretzmer was born in Kroonstad. For 70 years until his death in 2020, he lived in London – at the very heart of British culture. He contributed to the 1960s BBC satirical TV programme *That Was the Week that Was*. An award-winning Fleet Street journalist, he was TV critic of *The Daily Mail* and theatre reviewer of *The Daily Express*, attending over 2,500 first nights. As lyricist he worked with ABBA's Bjorn Ulveas and Benny Anderson on the musical *Kristina* and wrote the lyrics for the musical 'Our Man Creighton'. He is best known for writing the lyrics for the musical phenomenon *Les Misérables*, and his chart-topping collaboration with Charles Aznavour. This talk encompasses his life, both professional and personal through the eyes of his daughter, Danielle.

Danielle Lockwood's professional career in the film industry culminated in the position of Head of Publicity for Warner Bros Film Distributors, where she compiled and supervised the UK press and publicity campaigns for amongst others, Clint Eastwood, Warren Beatty, Robert de Niro and Oliver Stone. Relocating from London to the south coast to bring up her young family, Danielle focused on her own education, completing a BA Hons in History at the University of Chichester, and, as a recipient of the Karten Scholarship, a Masters in Jewish History and Culture at the Parkes Institute, University of Southampton. Danielle also lectures on history through film and organises Southampton's annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations and is a consultant for London's annual Jewish Film Festival.

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24 September: **Professor Richard Mendelsohn**

**Commemorating the Jews of Parow, a microcosm of South African Jewry.**

September sees the launch in Cape Town and Ra'anana of a deeply researched book on the Parow Jewish community; of a richly documented state-of-the-art Parow website; and of a novel and immersive Parow exhibition at the South African Jewish Museum. Richard Mendelsohn, historian and Parow boy, reports on these.

**Richard Mendelsohn** is a retired former head of the Department of Historical Studies of the University of Cape Town and Deputy Dean of the university's Faculty of Humanities. He is the author of *Sammy Marks: The Uncrowned King of the Transvaal* (1991) a biography of the pioneering South African Jewish industrial and mining entrepreneur; co-editor of *Memories, Realities and Dreams: Aspects of the South African Jewish Experience* (2002); and co-author with Professor Milton Shain of *The Jews in South Africa: An Illustrated History* (2008 and 2014) the first comprehensive history of the community to appear in over fifty years. As Richard grew up in Parow in the 1950s and 1960s, its Jewish heyday, the social history of its Jewish community is a project that is both professional and personal.