

The Jewish Contribution To Business And Professional Life in Stellenbosch

(c1925 to 2005)

Gerald Rosendorff with Gwynn Schrire

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With the help of Mr Willem Lubbe, well-known Stellenbosch businessman and his prodigious memory and some others including: Professor Solly Leeman, retired law professor, UCT; Michael Zetler, Attorney, now living in Israel; Leonie Segal, née Chorn of Cape Town; and Leon Levy of the CCMA (for his help in classifying employment categories) I have attempted to draw up the following list of businesses and professions in which Jews were involved from about 1925 until 2004.

It is amazing that in a period of about 80 years, there could be such a change in the business and professional world. Previously there was a comprehensive Jewish participation in fields as diverse as ranging from farmers to barbers, from bookies to woodcutters, to doctors, shopkeepers and lawyers. Today, (2005) apart from one business run by a Jewish man, who does not live in Stellenbosch, there is not a single Jewish business or professional person in Stellenbosch apart from a senior lecturer in the Music Department of the University of Stellenbosch.

This list has been compiled to the best of our abilities and memories. Please accept errors and omissions in good humour and regard these as signs of fallibility and age.

ACADEMIC: LIONEL BOWMAN (Prof Music); DR JOKL (Prof Physical Education); PROF KABAT (Prof Italian); SIMONE KIRSH (Senior Lecturer, piano); LOSSIE GINSBURG (world famous fruit refrigeration expert - also chairman of Shul for many years); DR HYMIE EBEDES (Elsenburg Veterinary Surgeon); FELIX GUT (expert on Nazi oppression, donated his collection of material on the Holocaust to Stellenbosch University); DR BENNIE EISENBERG (worked at fruit research with Lossie Ginsberg)

PROFESSIONS: **Accountant:** HYMIE CHORN; **Attorneys:** PIKKIE GEFFIN & RUBY SCHNEIDER, MICHAEL ZETLER; **Pharmacist,** BENNIE PERL (converted to Dutch Reformed!!); **General Practitioners:** Dr BENNY SPIRO (first Jewish Dr. 1938 – 1968); Dr LEN SILBERSTEIN (now "Selby" and living in London) joined Spiro ± 1950 – 1959); Dr GERRY ROSENDORFF (joined Spiro, 1956 – 1992, since then, Hon Sec/Treas/Shamus of Congregation); Dr MORRIE BASKER (partner with Rosendorff for 13 years, now living in Israel) and his brother IVOR (now living in Canada); Dr MAX ELSTEIN (partner with Rosendorff for ± 5 yrs, became Prof of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Manchester University); **Road Engineer:** CHIPPY ARMSTRONG.

ARTISTS: **Display Artist:** VIC MEYER; **Graphic Designer:** RENFIELD.

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS: RIVA LURIE, EDDIE, ABE, FANNY SEGAL

RETAIL: Bazaars: CARP (ABC Bazaar); MORRIS KLEIN (MK Bazaar); **Building Supplies:** LOUIS, BARNEY, WILLIE; **Building Supplies & Hardware:** SAM

LEWIS; MARCUS; L PEREL & Co; **Butcheries:** STEIN & SHERMAN; JAWITZ; BOET ZETLER; **Café:** RUTSTEIN; **Chain Stores:** OK BAZAARS; ACKERMANS; **Cycle Store:** NOCKIE LEWIS; **Fish Shop:** WERB > FLORENCE; **Furniture:** DAVE, MORRIS, GERALD POTASH (Stellenbosch Furnishers); LARRY MILNER; **General Dealers:** SILBERSTEIN; JOFFE; LEEMAN; MORRIE SPIRO; POLICANSKY; HENRY LEVINSOHN; COHEN; SIMON MOSS; KAPLAN; MAX PEISACH (1903); SAM LEWIS; **Grocers:** SPITZ & LEVINSOHN; OSRIN; CYWES; **Jeweller:** ABRAHAMS **News Agent:** GREENSTEIN & SENITZKY; **Shoe Store:** MYER SANDLER (Model Shoe Store)

INDUSTRIES: Motor Industry: JOE SHULMAN; HARRY LEVINSOHN (& MAREE) (Packard); LARRY ZIMAN (Volkswagen); SAM TOLMAN (General Motors); **LAUNDRY INDUSTRY: Dry Cleaning and Laundry:** Stellenbosch Steam Laundry; Stellenbosch Dry Cleaners, LARRY ZIMAN, DOUGIE ZIMAN; **Cabinet Maker:** MEYER (he made the Bimah and benches in our Shul); **Tannery:** ABE BUB; **Cobbler:** SENITZKY

SERVICES: Barber: RENFIELD

PROPERTY: Property Developer: FREDA ZETLER

INDUSTRY: Mill & Bakery: GELB; MORRIS JACKSON; **Mineral Water:** RIVA LURIE, EDDIE, ABE, FANNY SEGAL

HOTELS AND LIQUOR: Hotels: GOTTSCHALK > JOEL FRIEDMAN (Grand Hotel); SAM REICH (barman: Grand Hotel); MOSSIE TOLMAN (Coetzenberg Hotel); JOSIE TOLMAN (OLIVIER) (Coetzenberg Hotel); MORRIS NUROK (Masonic Hotel); **Bottle Stores & Bars:** MORRIS JACKSON (A1 Bottle Store); MAX SAACKS (Castle Bar); HARRY SCHEIFFER (subsequent owner of Castle Bar); RUBY & LEONARD JACKSON (Railway Bar)

ENTERTAINMENT: Cinemas: HARRY LEVINSOHN (Plaza & "Rec"); **Amateur Theatre,** MYREL GINSBURG also BERGZICHT TRAINING CENTRE (important administrative position)

BETTING AND GAMING: Tattersalls: LARRY ZIMAN

FARMERS: In Stellenbosch vicinity: FARMERS: In Stellenbosch vicinity: MENDEL ZETLER arrived in 1900. His son SAM farmed at "Mooiberge" where Sam's sons HERSCHEL, LENNIE, DENNIS and JEFFREY still farm as well as Herschel's son, BEVAN. Sam's son MICHAEL farms at "Limberlost" with his sons JULIAN, LESLIE, BARRY (who helps out when possible in the farm stall) and LEON (emigrated). Other Jewish farmers were SIMMY BLUMBERG (Stellenvale Winery); SAM BRUNOW; ABE BARAITSER; JOE FRIEDMAN; SACKS (Nietvoorby); SONNY DORFMAN; EMBER; **Out of town:** SACKS (Koelenhof); SACKS (Muldersvlei); SHABAN (Lynedoch); SHAPIRO (Vlottenberg); **Livestock Dealer:** MENDEL ZETLER and his son BOET ZETLER; BARUCH LEVINSOHN; **Wood Chopper:** LOSKY COHEN

RELIGIOUS: REV ZEIDEL (1900), REV H NATAS (1904), REV J HURWITZ (1905 -1910), REV EPHRAIM SHER (1913 - 1916), REV FS WALT (1916), REV MA HELMAN (1917 - 1920), REV KASSEL (1923), REV J HERISON (1925), REV I

GOLDBERG (1929 – 1934), REV I REICHENBERG (1937 - 1940), REV H SHATZ (1941), REV G GOLUB (1945), REV HILLMAN (1946), REV ISAAC PAKTER (1945 - 1964), RABBI M KAY (1964 – 1966), REV M CANTOR (1967), REV E LAGNADO (1968 - 1970), REV DAVID LAPIN (1973 - 1974), REV P KOEIN (1974 - 1975), REV HAROLD WALT (1976). Others that must be mentioned are LOSSIE GINSBURG (beloved chairman for many years) and SAMMY SEGALL (Shamus for about 40 years).

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Municipal Council: EDDIE SEGALL, PIKKIE GEFFIN; **Rotary:** LARRY & DOUGIE ZIMAN (father and son); **Hospital Committee:** ALL Jewish Drs at one time or another. Our ladies have raised funds to establish and maintain the **Trauma Room** at the local Police Station and we are also involved in working for and supporting the **Local Charities**.

SPORTS: Golf: PERELS & SAM LEWIS; POTASH; **Bowls:** SPIRO; LADIES (BETTY MARCUS & JUDY POTASH). LOUIS PEREL was made an honorary life member of the Stellenbosch van der Stel Bowls Club of which I am currently the only Jewish member and also serve as the official coach. **Tennis:** FREDA ZETLER