

## Generations in Woodstock and beyond .....

*Mike Getz, who grew up in Woodstock and eventually moved to Washington DC, tracks where generations of Woodstockers lived from the 20s to the 50s*



Woodstock is a suburb of Cape Town, about two miles from the city centre on the main road to its Southern suburbs - Observatory, Mowbray, Rosebank, Rondebosch, Newlands, Claremont, Claremont, Kenilworth, Wynberg, and Muizenberg – epitome of the sea shore.

I was born in Cape Town and grew up and lived in Woodstock until my marriage to Hilda in 1958. Looking back on memories and people, a sort of local genealogy occurred to me.

Our family's location there began with maternal grandfather, Avrom Leib Gelbart, born in Shubitz (Subate) in the Courland area of Latvia who settled in Cape Town during 1914 but had to return to rescue his family after his wife died. He came back to Cape Town with a new wife and his three children, including my mother Hodel her sister Chaike and brother Mike, and settled in Woodstock in 1928 (see the Gelbart stories)

My father, Chaim Shanya Getz, came from the same shtetl, Shubitz in 1926. He married Hodel Gelbart in 1928. I was born in 1929, my late sister Judy in 1930 and my brother Joe in 1936. The methodology I have used is intended to record two or three generations in the community names in **bold type represent my peer group**. Family names are of parents born between 1900 and 1915. Capitalised family names reflect those probably born in the mid to late 1800's. Most originated in Latvia or Lithuania. Underlined names indicate relocation to Israel the UK, US and Canada.

In the early years, many lived behind their stores, as we did, or close by. This perhaps accounts for the location of Woodstock and Salt River Shul in **Argyle Street** close to **Albert Road**.

### THE THIRTIES

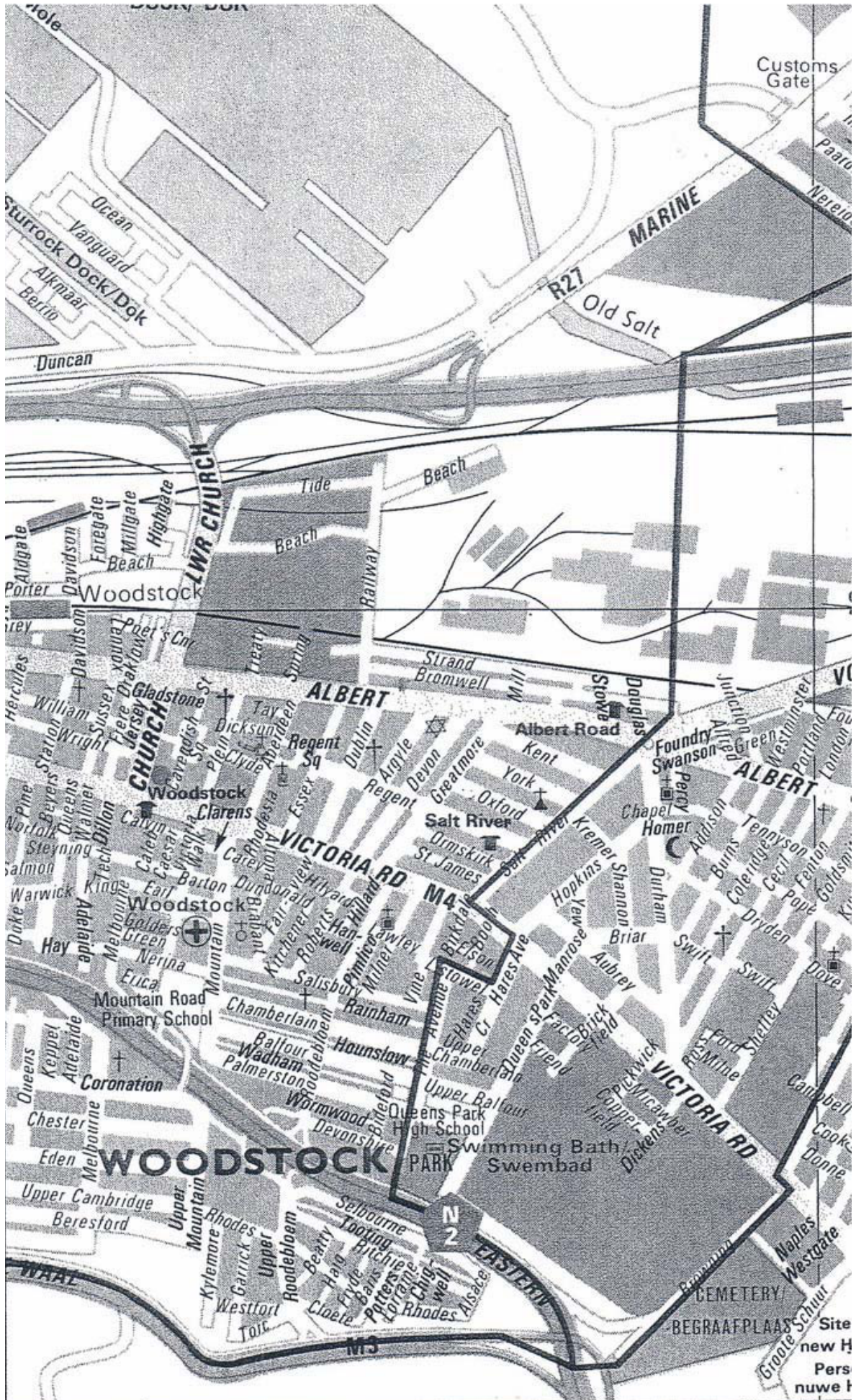
**Albert Road** (Lower Main Road) was the location of many Jewish shopkeepers beginning with Mr Tworetzky closer to the city and concluding with the Miluns on the approach to Observatory. My father's Chaim Getz' shop was at No 335 Albert Road. It was an important retailing artery because building of the Duncan Dock at the time, made it a convenient thoroughfare for workers. The following is a list of families in rough order of their location. They dealt in new and second hand clothing, shoes, shoe repairs or were groceries, butchers, merchants, metal workers and light engineers. Tworetzky- Sandler-Epstein-Gatz (my father) **LONSTEIN-Apter-Mendelson ARENOW-Elkin-Neipris-Newman-Boyd-SUDAT-Aronstan-Seidel-Shorkend-Orlin Praed-LAZEROW-Blachowitz-Friend-Lipkin-Turetzky-Berman-OBLOWITZ-Marks** Gevint-Milun-SLOVIN-NARRON-Bender (Berel and Koppel)-DERMAN

### MID THIRTIES AND FORTIES

**Albert Road**: Golshevsky, photographer and Barnard Katzeff attorney, set up.

**Salt River Road**: We have relocated here to No 30- living among the following:

Bernard (**Solly, sisters**)-**Derman (Shulamit, Ruth, brother)** Levine (**Jack, Freda**)- Kaplans (**Desmond, his sisters**) Schwarz (**Miriam**)- Aronstan-(Abe, **Becky, Eddie**) **POLITZKY**- Krasner-(Joe, **Greg**)



**Kent, York and Oxford Streets** led off *Salt River Road*.

The following families lived there during this period.

**GELBART**. (my grandfather's brother)- **JALOVITSKY**, Weinkove-Plitzky (**Cecil, Ruth, Sylvia**)- Berman - Eliason  
(**Rhoda** her brother, sisters)- Kantor- Myers (**Michael, Wolfie, their sisters**)-**Sorkin** (**Gertie, sister**)

**In Greatmore**

Lived - Sandler (**Willie, his sister**)- Orlin (**Abe, Lily, Ettie**) Newman (**Judy**) - Tworetzky (**Sam, Meish, Jack**) Zalk (**Yvonne, Aubrey**)-Dragon (Jack)-Behr- Lipkin (**Jack, Sonia, Diana**)-**KORODETZ**- Elkin (**Nathan**)- Grawitzky (**Rabbi Mottet**) Berelowitz ( **Reuben, brother, sister**) -Weiner ( **Meyer, Boris, sister** ) -Yochelowitz (**Elaine**) Leibowitz (**Jack**) -Kur (**Judy, my cousin**)

**Burns Road, Pope Street and Portland Road**, were in Salt River. I recall the following:

**GELBART**, Avrom Leib (my grandfather)-**MILUNS** (**Ann, Jack, Bessie**)  
**GRAWITZKY** Rabbi of Woodstock (**Mottet, Osher and sister Esther**)  
Rubin (**Ruth, Brenice, Irma** )

## **FORTIES AND FIFTIES**

**Victoria Road** was part of the Main Road from Cape Town to the Southern Suburbs. It was upmarket commercially from *Albert Road*. Neighbourhoods above Victoria Road were considered more desirable. Shops, businesses and professionals located on Victoria Road (by no means complete):

**Bagraim - Herman - Baigel - Barr - Epstein - Schatz - Friedland - Furman - Epstein - Galloon - Sacks - Diskin - Sakinofsky - Sacher - Slotsky - Rosenberg - Frank - Glaun - Rose - Binder - Katzeff.**

Doctors - **L. Ehrlich. J. Gans, S. Myers, C. Resriekov, S. Walt.**

Dentist- **D. Hotz.** Attorneys- **C. Barnett.**

Pharmacists - **Richman, Rytowski, Talmud.**

Residential neighbourhoods (mostly 5-to-10-minute walk to the shul) and some who lived there.

**Victoria Road**: Rev S. Kassel (**Bennie, Joe, Cyril, Morris, sister**)- Bagraim (**Mark, Isaac, Riva**)-Truab (**Wolf, Morris, sister**)- Ehrlich (**Edwin, Rodney, Jennifer**) Talmud (**Leonora, Joseph**)- **RICHMAN**-Furman H (**Morris**)- Gans (**Malke, Isaac, Phyllis**) - Friedlander- Resnekov - Gordon- Blecher (**Israel, Yetta**) Uranovsky (**Solly, Sarah, Ben**) - Slotsky (**Philip, Freda**)

**Avenue Road**: Binder (**Harry, Ettie, Doreen**)- Gatz (**Mike, Judy, Joe**) to No 16 from **Salt River Rd** Rosenthal ( cousin **Issy and Hannah**)- Schroals -(**Lipow - Boris,**) - Gulis (**Chana, Abe, Malka**) Rev Gulis headed the the Talmud Torah.  
Krensky (**Max**) - Berman - Golshevsky (**Simon, Elyo, sister**) - Baigel - Zalk (**Yvonne, Aubrey, Harold**) - Boyd (**Sidney, Naomi, Ada**) - Bloch (**Eddie, Lovel**) - Galloon (**Meish**)

**Birkdale Ave:** Marks S. (**Lionel, Gerry, David, Carmel, Zahava**) - Munitz M. (**Norman, Leon, Hymie, Paula**)- Gevint (**Reggie, his sister**) *Booth Rd:* Shell (**Ronnie, Sylvia**) *The Ave7JUe:* Gutman (**Solly**)

**Hares Ave:** Fligel (**Sharon, Harold**) - Seidel (**Alfie, Leon**) - Salmon (**Naomi, Ethel**) Scheiner (**Mannie, Ike, Bennie**)- Kramer (**Jack, Freda, Bella**)\_ Munitz - Gordon (**Dave, brother**)-Kalmanowitz: *Queens Park Ave:* Merkel A (**Dina, Anne**).

**Upper Chamberlain St:** Alpert (**Morris**)\_ Breslau (**Barney and brother**)

**Milner Rd:** Levin - Gelbart A (**Cecil and Mike**) Idesis (**Harold, Clare**) - Beimel (**Sarah, Hymie**)- Merkel I. (**Ada, Ralph, Menashe**) Lee Dr. (**Alan, Ginger, sister**)Marks MN ( **Uri, Ziona, Herzi, Isaac**)-Press - Joffe (**Arnold, sister**)-Egert-BermanKatzeffl. J. (**Joe, Doreen, Alec, Bennie**)-Barr (**Hymei, Oscar, Alec, sister**)

**Roodebloem Road:** Beinart- Jacobs (**Charlie, brother**)-Basker (**Bernie, Morrie**)Kopelowitz- Levin (**Geoff, Pearl**)-Davidowitz (**Rivkah, Gershel**)-Bunn (**Reuben, Bessie, Freda**) Gelbart M, my uncle (**Hannah, Herschel, Sidney, Felicia**) move on to **Vine Sreet** Levin (**Wolf, Felicia, brother**)-moved to **Salisbury Rd**-Simanowitz (**Solly, Abe,Wolf**) KatzeffM (son)

**Roberts Rd:** Gross (**Dave, Max, Effie, sister**)

**Cavendish Square:** Kaplan (**Sylvia, sisters**)-Hurwitz (Oscar)-Rubik.

**Vine St:** Marks P (**Josie, Solly, Shushie, Bertha, sister**) moved to Sea Point.



**Fairview Avenue:** Langman (**Ruth, Hymie,Berel**) Washkansky (**Harry, Greta**)- Dorfman-Levin (from Milner Rd) *Caleb St:* Katz (**Harry, Henny**)-Sakinofsky (**Isaac, Ezriel, Zelda, Charles**)-Geffin

**Barton St:** Katz (**Rose, Rae**) -Klein-Schumacher (**Lily, sister**)

**Walmer Rd:** Tankel (**Wolf, sister, brother**)-Shuman (**Alec**)

**Queens Rd**-Jackson.

I am in considerable debt to the late **Alec Rubin**, Secretary and moving spirit of the Woodstock and Salt River Talmud Torah. His immaculate records from 1929 to the 1960's were a key source. He added to these with press items, featuring the community, its activities and life cycle events. My inclusions are less complete and accurate and I would welcome correction.

Major figures in the religious life of Woodstock include

**Rabbi S. Grawitzky**, a revered, and learned Talmudic scholar

[Rev S. Kassel](#), did service as chazan, Talmud Torah principal mohel and schochet. He accepts a call to the Great Synagogue.

**Rev Baran** succeeds him as chazan. They will be followed by **Rev. Malamed**.

**Rabbi Mottel Grawitzky** assumes his father's seat.

**Menachem Kaplan**, at the Talmud Torah, was long- serving, beloved teacher, joined by

**Mr. J. Smolenski**, warm and personable pedagogue.

**Phyllis Sachar and Tamara Samsonava** taught the earlier years.

**Mr. R. Lederman** would take over as principal with a Modern, disciplinarian outlook.

**Rev I. Gulis** succeeds him and is also a memorable bal koreh and bal tefilah.

The Gabbaim of Woodstock from the thirties to the late fifties, were

**Messrs P. Gordon, P. Marks, Isaac Merkel and Mike Gelbart**.

All have gone to their rest. For those who lived there, the special character of Woodstock Jewry is an enduring testimony. They are remembered for their commitment and adherence to a Jewish way of life that remains a standard for those who followed them.

Compiled by Mike Getz