

# CHOL – Community History On-Line

A forum for those involved in preserving the footprint of Southern African Jewish community life in digital form

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## Community History On-Line Newsletter #1 10 December 2023

### International seminars

Dear Friends of CHOL

A big thank you to all our speakers on South Africans dedicated to the world of music. We are so pleased to have captured those precious musical stories which are now online. If you missed any you can hear them on the CHOL 'presentations' page (and the website of the SAJM) (or by clicking the links below):

- 1 [Heifetz - Brittan](#)
- 2 [Jewish Music UK - Auerbach](#)
- 3 [Jeanne Zaidel Rudolph](#)
- 4 [Musical Rabinowitzes](#)
- 5 [Stellenbosch Jewish Music collections from Fay Singer](#)
- 6 [King Kong - the 1958 Musical](#)
7. [Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir Evelyn Green](#)

(Danielle Lockwood, was not able to record her presentation on her late father Herbert Kretzmer but has kindly offered to present it again in the near future. See the end of this Newsletter for a link to his so appropriate song from *Les Mis* – really a prayer – *Bring Him (Them) Home*.

**Where to next:** As the year draws to a close, we are considering what we might do next. CHOL is very much your Forum so if you would like to make some suggestions – or even join the committee, please be in touch! We would love to hear from you. The committee hopes to meet in January to plan a programme for March. [info@chol.website](mailto:info@chol.website)

### Community updates:

#### Clocolan



Lynette Karp has written about her early life in the Jewish Community of Clocolan. Where? I hear you ask! It is in the Eastern Free State where her father Percy Klein and uncle Lockie were country doctors between 1940 and 1947 before moving to Pretoria. She is keen to know if anyone else has any memories of the Jewish families who lived there. Please reply to let us know and she can develop her story even more. Read it here: [CLOCOLAN Jewish Community](#)

## Ceres – CHOL is imbedded in the town museum website



Ceres synagogue celebrated its centenary in November. The Ceres Togryers Museum contacted CHOL and asked if they could 'imbed' our CHOL Ceres website onto their museum website. Of course we agreed. See here: [www.ceresmuseum.co.za](http://www.ceresmuseum.co.za). They also sent us some interesting pictures and newspaper adverts. You can see an article on business in Ceres here by clicking this link. [Ceres Business Activity](#)

## Roodepoort – research ongoing



Roodepoort research is still ongoing. Geoff Boner in Israel is the driver. If you have any information, please contact [gboner1@013.net](mailto:gboner1@013.net). The picture is of the old municipal buildings.

## Kimberley – has added a [Virtual Cemetery](#)

Welcome to the  
[Virtual Cemetery of the  
Kimberley Jewish Community](#)

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



[Home](#)   [Buy Some Leaves](#)   [Place A Stone](#)   [Upload A Picture](#)   [Post A Message](#)   [Donate](#)

The Kimberley website has added a cemetery section where you can visit and interact. If you click this link [Virtual Cemetery](#) you can find a list of all burials and search for ones you want. Then you can do all the actions in the blue strip above; buy some leaves, place a stone etc. Try it out. Perhaps you know somebody buried in Kimberley. You can also donate to the upkeep of the actual burial grounds if you wish.

## Turffontein – we would like a picture of the shul?

Beulah Gross in Australia has written about the community. We are earnestly looking for a photograph of the shul in Turffontein. Can anyone oblige?

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## Share Your Stories – 7 October

The large group of writers that Gail has connected in the **Share Your Stories** section have felt specially blessed and fortified these last two months by being able to share their reflections and thoughts, hopes and fears about the horrors and trauma we all feel, wherever we may be since 7 October. Gail circulated 18 responses which I attach again here. If you would like to share something you have felt or written – please contact [gail@chol.website](mailto:gail@chol.website)

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I hope you will be able to have a happy Chanukah with family and friends and that the future will become calmer and clearer for everyone.

[Bring Them Home: A Broadway Prayer](#) Click this link to hear members of the Broadway community interpreting Herbert Kretzmer’s powerful words from Les Mis, soaring on the music of Boublil and Schonberg. They came together and recorded a song – really a prayer that they hope will bring attention to the hostages who were kidnapped on October 7, 2023. They said that together, through music, they pray for their safe release – as do we all.

With every good wish  
Geraldine and Gail [info@chol.website](mailto:info@chol.website)  
and all at CHOL



Checkout the CHOL website: [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website) which now has on it:

- 111 original stories
  - 24 Video presentations
  - 28 Memoirs
  - 45 communities - also resources and journal articles etc
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**CHOL – Community History On-Line** is a forum set up in 2020, under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre at UCT and the South African Jewish Museum – bringing together all those working on / or interested in creating an online presence relating to the **History of Jewish Communities in Southern Africa**. Please send the attached Press Release to your local papers or synagogue magazines, to spread the word. [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website) [info@chol.website](mailto:info@chol.website).



**SAJM**  
South African Jewish Museum