

S.A. SIG

Jewish Genealogy - Southern African Special Interest Group
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Saul Issroff

Since the last newsletter, much of my time has been taken up with the establishment of the South African Centre for Jewish Migration and Genealogy Studies, of which I have been appointed project director.

An unexpected consequence of the 21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (London 2001), was an initiative by one of the speakers, Mendel Kaplan, to set up a Centre primarily to research the estimated 15,000 core families who migrated to Southern Africa between 1850-1950. The Centre is under the umbrella of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town. There will also be a public access section located at the South African Jewish Museum. This new Migration and Genealogy Centre is independently funded by a generous anonymous donor. Shea Albert, as Director of the South African Jewish Museum and Prof. Milton Shain, Director of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town, are closely involved.

In broad terms, the research will focus on the Eastern European locations from where the families originated, patterns of migration to South Africa, where families first settled, the connections to the broader non-Jewish communities, subsequent movements, inter-relationships of families and to where they have emigrated. The primary aim is to research the estimated 15,000 Jewish families from England, Germany, Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus migrating to Southern Africa between 1850-1950. The project could possibly extend to the Sephardi and Israeli migration since 1950.

The thinking behind the inception of the Jewish Migration and Genealogy project is twofold:

- (a) to map the entire history of Jewish migration to South Africa with the aim of providing authoritative and definitive data for the Discovery Centre at the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM).
- (b) to integrate the genealogical data in multi-disciplinary research initiatives under the auspices of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town. This is the first project of its kind in the world and will further consolidate the high international profile the Kaplan Centre enjoys.

Genealogical research has made enormous strides in recent decades while the field of migration is increasingly attracting the attention of scholars in the academy.

The Origins of South African Jewry

The localities from where the families originated will be researched. Much of this work is already freely available through genealogy sources referencing Lithuania, Latvia and other eastern European areas.

The Migration process

Information will be sourced from Passenger records, the existing Jews Temporary Shelter records, Naturalization records etc.

Settlement in South Africa

Initial localities, occupations, communal organizations, subsequent movements of families and inter-relationships of families will be looked at.

Subsequent emigration e.g. Aliyah to Israel, USA, Australia etc.

The project could possibly extend to the Anglo-Jewish, German, Sephardi, Israeli and other groups of immigrants to South Africa.

Public Centre

The Centre will have a public section located at the South African Jewish Museum. This will house a family history department, providing reference and educational services to family history researchers, within the broader sweep of Southern African and Jewish history.

A genealogy reference library will include basic genealogy research books, gazetteers and atlases, guides to translating vital records, and directories of family history resources around the world. It will also collect newsletters from Jewish genealogical societies and special interest groups.

A large amount of genealogical information is available on the Internet, especially through the websites of Jewishgen Inc. and the Salt Lake City Family History Library. Particularly relevant to this project are ongoing programs of collecting and indexing Lithuanian and Latvian archival material.

An adult education program including regular one-off lectures, and mini-seminars at beginners' and more advanced levels, should be an integral part of the Centre. In

addition a schools' program will be initiated. Interest could be generated through a national schools competition.

Academic Centre

This will be the first academic centre world wide to study Jewish Migration and Genealogy. The aim will be to perform the study at a graduate level. The primary focus will be on South African Jewry and its origins, but close co-operation with other major academic institutions, archives and genealogy interest groups internationally will be sought and maintained.

The project will be integrated in a multi-disciplinary manner within the University of Cape Town and anticipates close collaboration with the Centre for Social Research at the same university. Formal courses and certification, including distance learning and the introduction of visiting research fellowships, are envisaged.

Debby Myers is Project Co-ordinator (Cape Town). Students and other researchers are to be employed for data entry and research. In Johannesburg, Eli Goldstein is part-time Project Co-ordinator with responsibilities to liaise with SAJBOD Archives, S.A. Country Communities Project, Chevra Kadisha Johannesburg and Transvaal, for burial data etc., Beth Din, Chief Rabbi's Office etc. for marriage and other data.

The information Technology department of the University of Cape Town is consulting on the project regarding databases structure, search engines, web page etc. In Great Britain the focus will largely be on obtaining and indexing shipping records located in the public Record Office, Kew.

We would welcome ideas and input about projects, databases, names of South Africans anywhere.

Saul

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EDITORIAL

Beryl Baleson

First and foremost, I would like to offer sincere apologies to all Newsletter readers for the typographical errors that appeared in the previous issue. Tardiness is not an excuse, but the honest truth is that I was late in meeting my deadline and obviously did not check as thoroughly as I usually do.

Secondly, I would like to acknowledge and thank Howard Margol, in Atlanta, former President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies for his very generous donation made to our SIG.

Last, but definitely not least, I would like to express sincere sympathies to the family of Selwyn Zwick of South Africa, who only two days before his sudden death wrote to me offering an article on the Jewish Community of Pretoria.

We have some very interesting articles in this issue including a list of all the S.A. cities and towns that had Jewish Communities. The idea behind the publication of this list is for those people who were formerly resident in those towns to contribute articles on their lives and experiences in those areas.

Opinions expressed in articles are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the S.A. SIG, its officers or editor.

Beryl
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MIDDLE EAST *INDABA* STARTS IN THE BOLAND

SAPA.

A three-day meeting between Israeli and Palestinian officials, hosted by President Thabo Mbeki, started amid tight security at a posh wine estate outside Stellenbosch, in the Western Cape.

According to Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad, the aims of the deliberations would be to support ongoing initiatives towards peace in the Middle East, to help create a favourable environment to restart the peace process and to share South Africa's experiences.

"We want to see how our experiences can help them ... how we can help break the cycle of violence," he told journalists before the start of the meeting.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides would each contain eight delegates.

They would include chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat, as well as Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg and Yossi Beilin, who was justice minister when Ehud Barak was Israeli prime minister.

The South African delegation would include former National Party ministers Roelf Meyer, Leon Wessels and Pik Botha, as well as serving African National Congress Ministers Lindiwe Sisulu of Intelligence, Jeff Radebe of Public Enterprises, Valli Moosa of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dullah Omar of Transport and Ronnie Kasrils of Water Affairs and Forestry.

National Assembly Speaker Frene Ginwala would also be present, as would Pahad and deputy ministers Charles Nqakula of Home Affairs and Brigitte Mabandla of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

Pahad said the meeting was not a new round of peace negotiations, but was being held in support of existing processes. The *Indaba* is being held amid tight security at the Spier wine estate outside Stellenbosch.

New National Party Foreign Affairs spokesman Boy Geldenhuys said in a statement that South Africa's experience in the field of conflict settlement could give the Middle East peace process a boost.

LETTER FROM RABBI KURSTAG TO EDITOR OF STAR NEWSPAPER

The following letter, by Rabbi Kurstag to the editor of the STAR on 2 January 2002, is worth considering. Please read it.

Dear Sir,

It is with deep regret that I write you this letter and I trust that as one who claims to defend human rights and freedom of speech, you will have the courtesy to print it. I have been a subscriber to the STAR for thirty years and have just received my annual notice for the renewal of my subscription, No:103266

Your editorial of the 19th December 2001 in which you state that Mr. Ariel Sharon's declaring of Arafat to be irrelevant has seen the introduction of one of the most ruthless programs of random intimidation and killing- in defence of civilization in the last 50 years is the last straw, as far as I am concerned. Where have you been for the past 50 years? Have you heard of the Soviet Massacres in Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Afghanistan in the 1980s? Have you heard of the killing fields of Cambodia, the Genocide of Burundi, the murder and slave trade of the Sudan perpetrated against the Christians in the country, Jordan's Black September when 10,000 Palestinians were slaughtered by the Jordanian army in a couple of days. The Congolese civil war, Robert Mugabe's destruction of Zimbabwe, the cries "*Maak die Jode dood*" from the Mosques of Cape Town? All these Sir, whether you realize it or not have happened and are happening within your 50 year time limit. And yet, you choose Israel whose children are blown to bits in discos and pizzerias and have the temerity to say "Thus far and no further"

The only conclusion to be drawn is that this has nothing to do with Anti-Zionism. Like your colleagues in the media and the ruling party, your attitude is clearly one of Anti-Semitism and you can no longer conceal this hatred in your breast even if you try. I therefore cancel my subscription to your "civilized" newspaper and as a responsible Rabbinical Leader call on all Jews and fair-minded South Africans to do likewise.
(signed)

Rabbi M.A. Kurtstag
Head of the Jewish Ecclesiastical Courts of South Africa

NEHEMIAH DOV HOFFMANN

1860-1928

Brief Biographical Notes, part of a larger doctoral thesis

By Rabbi Richard Newman

Joliet Jewish Congregation, Joliet, Illinois.

Nehemiah Dov Hoffmann was born 8th June 1857 and died in July 1928. There is some dispute to the actual birth-date as there are conflicting dates given by different authorities. This date is found in the *Ivriskaya Entziklopedia*, vol 2, p6. Zalman Rejzen in his *Leksikon*, gives a birthdate for Hoffmann as 14 November 1860, based on Hoffmann's own record in *Sefer HaZichrones*. Hoffmann states, however, that at the age of 52 he commences to write his *Sefer Zichrones* in 1913, thus giving his year of birth as 1860/61.

He was born in the *Stetl* of Gavre in the district of Kovna, modern Kaunas, in Lithuania. His father, Ze'ev Wolf, was a shopkeeper in the town and a *maskil*, an enlightened person.

ND Hoffmann studied for ten years with the local *melamdim*, the Jewish teachers. He also attended a secular school in the town of Arzvalik, (alt spelling—Erzhvelick). Later he studied under the town's rabbi, the traditional Mishnah, Talmud and commentaries. At the same time he started reading books of the period of enlightenment and also started to write Hebrew verse.

At the end of 1873, possibly after his Bar Mitzvah, he settled with his parents in the town of Birzai. Here he studied lithography and mathematics with the renowned teacher Yosef-Leib Sasnitz. Furthermore he studied mediaeval literature, philosophy and mathematical sciences. Here in Birzai he learned German and was able to read in four languages.

In 1874, while still at an early age, he wrote a description of the town Birzai in the journal *HaLevanon*. Thereafter, a series of scientific articles in *HaZefira* and in 1877 he wrote his first book, published in Vilna, entitled *Ozar Nehmad*, "Precious Treasure".

His book, *Toldot Hohmei HaBotanik*, 'History of Botany' was published in 1879. In the same year he was invited by Michael L Rodkinson to come to Koenigsburg to assist with the editing of the Hebrew journal *HaKol*, "The Voice". Hoffmann spent five months with this journal and also wrote for its Yiddish supplement entitled *Kol LaAm*, "The Voice of the People"

After this brief stay in Koenigsburg he returned to Vilna from where he submitted his articles to the Hebrew language weeklies including *Hazefira HaMagid*, *HaLevanon*, *HaMelitz*, *Ivri Anochi* and *HaOhev*.

There, in Vilna, he distributed his booklets *HaNosea*, The Traveller (1883) and *Ma'aseh Hahamim*, "Deeds of the Wise" (1885) and over 20 novelettes in Yiddish, including such exciting titles as: 'The Wrong Father', 'The Gypsy Child', 'The Secret

Will', 'The Inheritance', 'The Kosher Sacrifice', 'Don Yehuda Abrabanel', 'To the Gallows', 'Life in a Harem', 'Brotherly Love', 'Falsely Convicted', and 'A Poisoned Love'.

In addition, Hoffmann sent scientific articles to *Di Yidishe Gazeten* in New York and in 1885 was invited to that city by the editor Kasriel Zvi (Hersch) Sarasohn. He was to be appointed as assistant editor at the paper with a salary of ten dollars a week with board and lodgings.

Hoffmann accepted and made his way to New York. The eventful journey and description of New York are well documented in his book of 1916, *Sefer haZichrones*, Book of Memories. However, he spent only nine months there, as he was overcome by longings for his wife and children, (was this the real reason, or was he made a better offer by David Gordon who was already ailing?). These impressions were also published in *HaMagid* in an article 'Nine Months in America'.

On his return from America in 1886 he went to the city of Lyck, then in East Prussia. This, the city of Elk, is today in Poland, only 70 km from the Lithuanian border. Here the local *shohet* (ritual slaughterer), Eliezer Lipmann Silbermann, founded the Hebrew weekly *HaMagid* that was printed in Lyck from 1856 to 1891. In 1880 David Gordon (of *Hibbat Zion* fame) officially became the editor of *Ha-Magid*, but in 1886 Gordon took ill and on his death his son took over the control of the paper. It appears that Hoffmann was not satisfied with this as he felt that he was passed over and should have become its editor.

In 1887 Hoffmann proceeded to Warsaw where he published his essays, 'Matters of Nature' and 'Pre-history of the World'. He also published popular scientific articles in Mordehai Spector's, *Der Hoyzfraynd*.

In 1889, on advice of his brother-in-law, Barnet Millin, who had previously settled in South Africa which had become known as the 'land of gold, diamonds and opportunities', (this encouraged many of his fellow countrymen to emigrate from Lithuania to South Africa in the 1880's).

We can trace his journey only from London where he departed on 3rd August, 1889 on the Drummond Castle, arriving twenty three days later.

He soon proceeded to Johannesburg, after spending *Rosh Hashanah*, the Jewish New Year, in Cape Town' where he met his other brother-in-law, Nathan Millin. Hoffmann had the foresight to bring with him a set of lead type of the Yiddish-Hebrew languages. Having had much journalistic experience, Hoffmann hoped to establish himself as a pioneer and leader in this field. Yiddish, although a European language, uses the square Assyrian fonts. In his writing we see that there were cases when Hoffmann ran out of a certain letter and would have to use the "closest" available. In 1890, in Johannesburg, he published the first weekly Yiddish journal in all Africa, *Der Afrikaner Israelit*. It comprised eight pages of news items, political comment and literature, all written by Hoffmann. (A mention of its publication was in the prestigious Jewish Chronicle of London, dated April 25, 1890).

The journal lasted only for a short six months as it did not receive the support of the Jews of Johannesburg, as in Hoffmann's own words: "The Johannesburg Jews of that time were not ready for a Jewish newspaper, the time is not yet ripe".

After this failure Hoffmann returned to the Cape Colony and was forced to follow a career of a simple pedlar, a *smouse*. This took him on long tedious journeys into the arid desert -like areas of the Karoo in the Cape Colony. This brought him into contact with the indigenous population, both Boers and the Africans.

By 1895, exhausted by the years of rough outdoor life, Hoffmann settled in Cape Town and opened a Yiddish press from where he publishes a series of Yiddish and Hebrew journals. The first of these was *HaOr*, The Light, although with a Hebrew name was in Yiddish. This appeared from April, 1895 until July, 1897. There were occasional Hebrew supplement with this publication called *HaOhev*, which contained articles on scientific subjects and belle-lettres.

Was his life a great success, was his coming to the sparsely settled Jewish areas of South Africa meaningful to his creative ability? Or was his talent lost and unappreciated in the struggle of his co-religionists to make a living and survive in those pioneering days?

These are the unanswered questions I am trying to answer. If any readers know of the man and his life, please contact me at:
genserch@msn.com

THE FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT- THE JEWISH CONNECTION.

This article was written by **Irving Lissoos**, of Johannesburg and published in *Jewish Affairs*, Winter 2001 edition. Dr. Lissoos obtained the information herein by interviewing Solly Sklar, Louis Washkansky's brother-in-law; Shirley Kaplan, widow, and Lorraine, daughter, of Dr. Barry Kaplan; Barbara Arenson, daughter of Val Schrire; Dr. Cecil Moss and Dr. Joseph Ozinsky.

I would like to thank Mr. David Saks, Editor of *Jewish Affairs*, for granting permission to our SIG to reprint this article for the Newsletter.

Louis Washkansky died on 21 December 1967 - 18 days after receiving the heart of Denise Darvall. Eighteen days after becoming the world's first heart transplant, the mystical eighteen or *chai* - Life. For most of these 18 days, Louis had been given a new lease on life.

Washkansky was born in 1914 in the Lithuanian town of Kovno (Kaunas). In the fifteenth century the first Jews came to Kovno and for centuries after Jews arrived and were expelled from there. When Czar Alexander II ascended to the Russian throne, all restrictions against the Jews of Kovno were removed. When Louis was born there

were about 40,000 Jews living in Kovno. Living conditions were poor and Jews immigrated to America and South Africa. Louis' father immigrated to South Africa, leaving his mother to look after the four children - two boys and two girls. This she did by running a small store. When Louis was nine years old, the Washkanskys joined their father, who was in the grocery business, in Cape Town.

Louis grew up in the Gardens, in the shadow of Table Mountain. As a young man he would go to the Long Street Baths where, with other Jewish young men of his age, he joined the Maccabi Wrestling Club and Gym. Here he met and became very friendly with his future brother-in-law, Solly Sklar. He loved to exercise, work out and wrestle and became quite muscular and fit. He was popular, a party man, loved dancing, drinking with the boys and smoked like a chimney. In 1940 he joined the South African Engineering Corps, or Sappers, and was sent up North, eventually finishing in Italy.

In the army, Louis refused to wear the regulation army issue boots. He wore instead his western style leather boots saying that he could not wear the army boots because of problems with his big toes. After the war he had the *chutzpah* to claim reimbursement from the army for the use of his personal footwear. For the duration of his army service, he was paid at a rate of ninepence a day! Louis was just as popular in the army, except with the NCO's. On one occasion, he disappeared for a few days and returned with a live ox, purchased with cigarettes from the Italian peasants, which was slaughtered and provided fresh meat for his compatriots. A pleasant change from the tinned bully-beef. While up North, he was awarded the Italy Star, Africa Service Medal, Africa Star, King's Medal, 1939-1945 Star and the Defence Medal. Dr. Philip Blaiberg was his dentist in the army. After the war he returned to Cape Town and eventually opened his own grocery. In 1947 he married Anne Sklar at the Gardens Synagogue.

In December 1960 Washkansky had his first heart attack. Several heart attacks later his heart was so badly damaged that he struggled to breathe, was waterlogged and was at death's door. His physician, Dr. Barry Kaplan, gave him only a few months to live and referred him to the Cardiac Clinic at Groote Schuur Hospital.

Barry Kaplan was Louis' personal physician and friend. Because Louis had such difficulty with breathing Dr. Kaplan gave him bronchodilator suppositories. Louis loved this and told all his friends: "Dr. Kaplan gave you pills that you shoved up your ass and the air came in through the top".

Barry Kaplan was born in Riga, the capital of Latvia. At about the age of six he and his family arrived in South Africa and settled in Paarl around 1931. Barry learnt to speak Afrikaans long before he could speak English. In 1935 the family moved to Cape Town and lived in an apartment on Maynard Street in the Gardens. He qualified as a doctor at the University of Cape Town and qualified as a physician in Edinburgh where he became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians. For about two years Dr. Kaplan was a ship's doctor and travelled to the Far East.

After his return to Cape Town, Kaplan became a member of the Cardiac Clinic at the hospital, and went into private practice. In the Six Day War he was ready to leave for

Israel, but the war ended before he could do so. He did go to Israel during the Yom Kippur War and worked in hospitals there, enabling Israeli doctors to go to the front.

He was passionately fond of archaeology and became a well-known amateur archaeologist. In fact his son became an archaeologist in Cape Town.

On 27 January 1967, Washkansky was referred to Dr. Mervyn Gotsman at the Cardiac Clinic by Dr. Kaplan. At that time, Mervyn Gotsman was a consultant physician and senior lecturer at the Grootte Schuur Hospital and the University of Cape Town. He was to become the Director and Professor of Cardiology at the Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem. He became Menachem Begin's personal physician and accompanied him to the Camp David talks in America.

Louis was admitted to the hospital and cardiac investigations were carried out. These tests confirmed the seriousness of his condition, showing a heart muscle that was severely damaged and blood vessels to the heart that were blocked. He was discharged to the care of Dr. Kaplan, but it was not very long before he became so ill that he was re-admitted to Professor Velva Schrire's cardiac ward.

Schrire's grandfather, Yehuda Leib, arrived in the Cape from Neustadt in Lithuania in the 1880s. Sammy Marks, the great South African entrepreneur, came from the same town. Yehudah Leib was involved in bringing to Cape Town the first Yiddish type for newsprint. He moved to Johannesburg but found this city too areligious and returned to Cape Town. At one stage, he helped in establishing the Roeland Street Synagogue. Yehudah Leib had three sons, one of whom Sam, became a lawyer in Germany and studied in a Yeshiva. He settled in Kimberley, married well, gave up his profession and managed the family interests. This was certainly a scholarly gentleman, knowing Greek, Latin, Hebrew, German, French, English, and devoting his life to intellectual pursuits.

This academic flair rubbed off on his son Velva, or Val. Val matriculated at Kimberley Boys' High School, obtaining distinctions in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Mathematics and Science, the highest marks in South Africa. Although his family frowned upon his playing sport on the Sabbath, he was still able to play Nuffield School cricket. He became a medical student at the University of Cape Town and passed his examinations with Honours, obtaining ten medals and four scholarships. Whilst a medical student, he received his PhD in Physiology and on qualifying saw service in the war as a medical officer in North Africa. After the war Schrire returned to Cape Town, becoming a lecturer in Pathology and then an assistant in the Department of Medicine. He was awarded a Nuffield Travelling Fellowship, which he took up at the National Heart Hospital in London *en passant* becoming a member of the Royal College of Physicians. He spent some time on a study tour of the USA and finally returned to Cape Town. At first he started off in private practice, but soon joined the full time staff of Grootte Schuur hospital. There he established Cardiology as a speciality at the hospital and can be truly described as the father of Cardiology in South Africa.

Schrire was a pioneer in the study of the differences in cardiac disease in the different racial groups in South Africa and the causes thereof. He was a renaissance man, having a broad knowledge of every conceivable subject and was blessed with a total

recall memory. In fact he saw about 20,000 patients a year at the hospital and remembered each by name and disease entity.

Schrire supported Chris Barnard's open-heart surgery and this became a great success at Groote Schuur Hospital. Financed by Schrire's department, Barnard went to America and studied organ transplantation. Barnard returned and became interested in kidney transplantation, so much so that he wanted to give up cardiac surgery and concentrate on renal transplantation. Once again to the rescue, Schrire's Cardiac Clinic sponsored Barnard's trip to the USA to study heart transplantation. Barnard said that Schrire directed his professional life.

Chris Barnard, after much experimental surgery, was ready to do a heart transplant. He discussed the matter with Schrire, who eventually agreed on this procedure provided that both donor and recipient were white (a very wise caveat considering South Africa's political standing in the world at that time).

Washkansky was the obvious choice as the recipient.

Dr. Kaplan, being the patient's personal friend and physician, was asked to discuss the transplant with Washkansky. He told him that he would be taking a tremendous gamble. Washkansky realised that this was his only hope to get a new heart and agreed to undergo this innovative procedure. Barnard was introduced to Washkansky and without much ado the patient told the surgeon that he was ready and Barnard must do it. Washkansky was transferred to Chris Barnard's ward to await a suitable donor.

On one of those beautiful Cape afternoons the Darvall family was off to visit some friends. They stopped outside Wrensch's Town Bakery to buy a cake to take to their friends. As they crossed Main Road, a car hit Denise Darvall and her mother, Myrtle. Dr. Louis Ehrlich, who lived not far from the scene of the accident, had just returned from a Barmitzvah and was showering on this hot summer Saturday afternoon. He was called to the accident and quickly donned some clothes. At the accident he realised that Myrtle Darvall was dead and that not much could be done for Denise. As a youth, Ehrlich had attended *cheder* with Solly Sklar.

The two accident victims were taken by ambulance to Groote Schuur hospital. Mrs. Darvall was certified dead and Denise was rushed to the emergency room. Denise was brain dead and Dr. Rose-Innes, a neurosurgeon, later confirmed this. Dr. Bosman asked Edward Darvall, Denise's father, if they could use her heart and kidneys to be transplanted. Edward Darvall knew how kind and caring Denise was and without any hesitation gave his permission for these vital organs to be used.

On Saturday, 2 December 1967, the stage was set for the world's first heart transplant operation. Dr. Joseph (Ozzie) Ozinsky, the anaesthetist on call, was sent for. He put a tube into Denise's windpipe so that she could be adequately oxygenated.

Dr. Ozinsky was born in Vilna in Lithuania and came to South Africa as a baby. His father was a diamond dealer in Europe. On arrival in South Africa, he first became a *smous* or peddler, one of those beloved merchants who travelled the length and breadth of South Africa. Ozzie qualified as a doctor at the University of Cape Town in 1949. He obtained his higher anaesthetic degrees in London and in Ireland in 1955.

"Ozzie" specialised in anaesthetics in Cape Town and eventually became Professor at the University of Cape Town. Chris Barnard described "Ozzie" as having a sense of humour and a feeling for people. This, he said, made "Ozzie" invaluable.

Val Schrire was called in to assess Denise's heart and he pronounced that it was suitable for transplantation. Louis Washkansky was wheeled into the theatre for Dr. Ozinsky to start the anaesthetic that would lead to the removal of his diseased heart and its replacement with Denise's young healthy heart.

In the adjacent theatre, a second anaesthetist, Dr. Cecil Moss, was monitoring Denise and ensured there would be no deterioration. Cecil Moss was born in Riversdale, a town 200 kilometers from Cape Town. His father, a shopkeeper, was born in Lithuania and his grandfather was a Rabbi in Calvinia, a small town in the Cape. Cecil's father moved to Cape Town so that his two sons would have better educational opportunities. With great financial sacrifice, Cecil and his brother were sent to medical school at the University of Cape Town. Cecil's brother eventually became a gynaecologist.

Cecil interrupted his studies in fourth year to join the army. He served as a stretcher-bearer in Italy and saw a lot of action. At the end of the war he was in Italy. The famous South African rugby player, Boy Louw, sent ambulances all over Italy to collect rugby players and a team was chosen to play against New Zealand in Italy. Cecil Moss was in that team. He returned to medical school and resumed his medical studies in fourth year. He qualified in 1948. In 1949 he was selected to play for South Africa against the visiting New Zealand rugby team. He was one of the three backs who played in all four tests against the tourists. In the fifties he specialised in anaesthetics in Liverpool and London and returned to South Africa. Besides being a specialist anaesthetist, he was the Springbok rugby coach, coaching the team in 12 test matches of which they won 10. He also assisted in selecting the Maccabi rugby team.

On Sunday, 3 December 1967, Denise Darvall's heart started pumping in Louis Washkansky's chest. The response was dramatic - a dying man had been transformed. Louis changed dramatically and his clinical, mental and physical conditions improved markedly. However, on about the twelfth postoperative day his general condition started deteriorating and he died of a severe lung infection on 21 December. Rabbi Israel Abrahams buried him at Pinelands Cemetery, on the 22 December, 1967.

On 2 January 1968 Chris Barnard transplanted the heart of Clive Haupt, a 25 year old coloured man, into Dr. Philip Blaiberg, a Jewish dentist. Blaiberg lived for eighteen months with his new heart - again the mystical 18 or *chai*

LIST OF S.A. JEWISH COMMUNITIES AS AT 1965

Beryl Baleson

The following list of towns in which there were Jewish Communities, in South Africa, as at the year 1965 was taken from "South African Jewry", written by Leon Feldberg.

The towns are listed, in alphabetical order, in the Provinces as they were known in South Africa in 1965, i.e. Transvaal; Natal; Orange Free State; Eastern and Western Cape Province; South-West Africa; Swaziland; Bechuanaland. Basutoland is listed as having no Jewish population there at this time.

The idea of listing these Communities is to help members build up an accounting of Jewish life in these places to be printed in future Newsletters, and thereafter as a permanent data base on the S.A. SIG website.

We are requesting members to record personal accounts of their communities for publication, which would include families of the community; aspects of local Jewish life, its institutions and particular character. Jewish involvement in the community at large, its history, business life and development could be featured as well.

The listing includes: (a) name of town; (b) number of Jewish families and (c) number of Jewish persons.

For those who wish to send information on any of the Jewish communities listed hereunder, please forward to Beryl Baleson, Editor, tuis@zahav.net.il

TRANSVAAL.

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>JEWISH FAMILIES</u>	<u>JEWISH POPULATION</u>
Alberton	10	25
Amersfoort	2	4
Balfour	4	10
Barberton	4	14
Belfast	2	10
Benoni	350	1237
Bethal	72	247
Blackhill	2	5
Bloemhof	3	13
Boksburg	100	350
Brakpan	220	600
Breyten	4	10
Brits	19	57
Bronkhortspruit	12	36
Carletonville	54	162

Carolina	2		6
Chrissiefontein I		3	
Christiana	1		3
Coalville	2		7
Coligny	5		15
Cyferbult	2		4
Daggafontein	2		7
Davel and Rietkuil	9		20
Delareyville	2		6
Delmas	17	51	
Devon	8		24
Duivelskloof	1		2
Dunnottar	17		56
Edenvale	3		10
Eerste Fabriek	1		4
Elandsfontein	2		7
Elandshoek	1		3
Endicott	1		3
Ermelo	13		32
Estantia	2		7
Florida	13		45
Germiston	340		1,446
Graskop	3		15
Greylingstad	1		3
Grootvlei	2		8
Heidelberg	13		41
Hendriksdal	1		3
Hendrina	2		4
Holmdene	2		7
Johannesburg	12,500		57,707
Kempton Park	25		63
Kendall	2		7
Kinross (with Kriel)	8		24
Klerksdorp	157		481
Klip River	1		3
Koster	3		12
Krugersdorp	260		1,350
Lake Chrissie	1		1
Leslie	25		75
Lichtenburg	36		108
Louis Trichardt	5		16
Lydenburg	1		3

TRANSVAAL.**TOWN****JEWISH FAMILIES****JEWISH POPULATION**

Mabieskraal	1		3
Machadadorp	2		7
Magaliesburg	3		10
Mazista	1		3

Messina	7		20
Meyerton	12		35
Middelburg	24		109
Naboomspruit	1		2
Nelspruit	3		12
Nigel	50		150
Nylstroom	2		7
Orkney	4	7	
Ottosdal	1		3
Pietersburg	72		216
Pilgrims Rest	2		6
Potchefstroom	70		210
Potgietersrust	18		56
Premier Mine	1		3
Pretoria	1,150		4,500
Randfontein	100		240
Rayton	1		3
Redan	1		3
Roodepoort/ Maraisburg	64		376
Rustenburg	47		141
Sabie	7		14
Sanieshof	2		6
Schweizer Renecke	6		18
Settlers	1		3
Slurry	2		7
Springs	373		1,049
Standerton	16		59
Trichardt	2		7
Tzaneen	1		4
Vanderbijlpark		100	
Ventersdorp	3		9
Venterspost	10		22
Vereeniging	188		730
Volksrust	20		87
Warmbaths	19		75
Waterval Boven	2		6
Wolverdiend	3		11
White River	5		12
Witbank	93		280
Wolmaransstad	4		14
<u>TRANSVAAL.</u>			
<u>TOWN</u>	<u>JEWISH FAMILIES</u>		<u>JEWISH POPULATION</u>
Zebedelia	1		2
Zoekmaaker	4		14
Zwartruggens	1		2

NATAL

Dannhauser	5	15
Doonside	2	5
Durban	1,600	5,231
Newcastle	2	10

Natal South Coast

A scattered Jewish population of 27 families-

Margate	10	45
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Natal North Coast

Pietermaritzburg	50	130
Verulam	2	6
Vryheid	44	120
Zululand (Scattered Population)	9	20

ORANGE FREE
STATE

Arlington	1	3
Bethlehem	36	123
Bloemfontein	410	1,260
Bothaville	6	24
Brandfort	4	20
Bultfontein	5	15
Clocolan	6	20
Dewetsdorp	3	10
Dover	3	10
Edenburg	2	6
Edenville	1	2
Fauresmith	2	6
Ficksburg	15	55
Frankfort	4	18
Harrismith	11	26
Heilbron	16	61
Hennenman	9	34
Hoopstad	1	3
Jagersfontein	1	5

ORANGE FREE
STATE

TOWN	JEWISH FAMILIES	JEWISH POPULATION
Kestell	4	10
Koffiefontein	4	6
Kopjes	4	16
Kroonstad	61	183

Marquard	3	9
Odendaalsrus and District	13	67
Parys	19	57
Paul Roux	3	10
Petrus Steyn	2	2
Philippolis	5	15
Reitz	2	6
Senekal	5	17
Smithfield	2	6
Springfontein	2	6
Steynsrust	2	2
Thaba 'Nchu	10	30
Theunissen	3	7
Trompsburg	1	3
Tweespruit-Westminister	3	9
Ventersburg	2	2
Vierfontein	1	3
Viljoenskroon	6	18
Virginia	15	45
Vrede	8	24
Vredefort	3	9
Welkom and Districts	110	330
Wepener	8	22
Wesselbron	6	21
Whites and Districts	28	50
Winburg	2	12
Zastron	4	12

EASTERN PROVINCE

Aberdeen	3	8
Aliwal North	13	41
Burghersdorp	2	6
Butterworth	2	6
Cathcart	2	7
Colesberg	3	3
Cradock	14	32

EASTERN PROVINCE

TOWN	JEWISH FAMILIES	JEWISH POPULATION
East London	385	1,250
Fort Beaufort	2	3
Graaf-Reinet	8	29
Grahamstown	24	72
Hankey	4	11
Humansdorp	3	9

Jamestown	2	7
Jansenville	3	9
Kingwilliamstown	24	72
Kirkwood	9	27
Knysna	5	17
Komgha	1	4
Lady Grey	3	1
Matatiele	1	3
Middelburg	5	18
Molteno	3	8
Noupoort	1	3
Norvarspont	2	7
Port Alfred	4	10
Port Elizabeth	850	2611
Queenstown	34	102
Uitenhage	63	200
Umtata	19	57
Uniondale	4	12
Willowmore	9	29

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

Albertina	5	20
Barkley West	4	10
Beaufort West	14	42
Bellville	120	500
Border	6	21
Bredasdorp	2	6
Britstown	2	9
Caledon	8	36
Calitzdorp	2	7
Calvinia	9	30
Cape Town	4,500	23,866
Carnarvon	1	4
Ceres/Wolsely	7	27
De Aar	5	32
Dealfontein	1	5
Douglas	1	3
Durbanville	10	25

WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>JEWISH FAMILIES</u>	<u>JEWISH POPULATION</u>
George	31	100
Hermanus	14	38
Keimoes	1	5
Kenhardt	4	12
Kimberley	141	423
Lainsburg	5	12
Mafeking	15	45

Malmesbury	20	76
Moorreesburg	no details given, except to say that the Hebrew Congregation was established in 1910.	
Mossel Bay	22	77
Nababeep	3	11
O'Kiep	2	3
Oudtshoorn	70	310
Paarl	166	600
Parow	104	378
Petrusville	1	6
Phillipstown	1	4
Postmasburg	4	12
Prieska	2	6
Prince Albert	3	10
Riversdale	2	8
Robertson and Swellendam	18	60
Rossouw	3	9
Somerset West/Strand	40	140
Springbok	9	32
Stellenbosch	70	283
Taungs	1	3
Upington	39	117
Van Rhynsdorp	6	18
Victoria West	3	12
Villiersdorp	5	20
Vredenburg/Saldanha Bay	16	67
Vryburg	24	72
Wellington	41	109
Williston	7	22
Wolsely	8	36
Worcester	80	320
<u>SOUTH WEST AFRICA</u>		
Keetmanshoop	13	36
Windhoek	125	320
<u>SWAZILAND</u>	22	77

Towns where there was a Jewish Population -
Mbabane, Bremersdorp, Stegi, Godegan, Mahamba, Hlatikulu and Pigs Peak.

BECHUANALAND 7 24
Towns where there was a Jewish Population:
Francistown, Lobatsi, Mochudi, Pilane and Serowe.

FLAG FROM FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL CELEBRATION IN PRETORIA, 1949.

Roy Ogus

The image shown below, is a scan of a signed Israeli flag that I found among the possessions of my late father, Solomon Ogus. It appears to have been signed by a group of people on the date 5 Iyar 5709 (1949), which was the first anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

My father was intensely involved in Jewish Community activities in Pretoria and Johannesburg at the time, and therefore, I would guess that this flag was probably signed at one of the Jewish Conventions that he was attending at the time. Alternatively, it may have been signed at a first anniversary celebration of the State of Israel.

Most of the names on the flag are quite legible, and many appear to be members of the Pretoria Jewish community at the time. It therefore appears that the flag-signing took place at an event in Pretoria.

I have managed to identify the following names on the flag, shown in alphabetical order.

Julius Block; Mona Brener; C(ecil) Cooper (a brother of Arie Cooper); S. Epstein; Berel Factor; R. Hellman; Thelma Jaffe; Marion Klein; Bella Levitt; Annie Levi; Mollie Lewkowski (?); Blumie Matthews; E.R. Mirvis; E. Neufeld; A. Nowosenetz; Solly (Solomon) Ogus; Lea Rodkin; Minnie Sack; Ray Sapirstein; H(arry) R. Schewitz; R. Schewitz; H.J. Schwartz; S. Schwartz; Ettie Shear; E. Shmuelson or Shmuelow.

There are three names I cannot identify.

If anyone can identify these last three names, or can provide any more information about this flag, please e-mail Roy Ogus at ogus@impact.xerox.com

(A clear picture of this Flag appears on the website of the S.A. SIG at <http://www.jewishgen.org/SAfrica/> under the heading "What's new".)

Mr. Scheuch

George

Mr. Scheuch's

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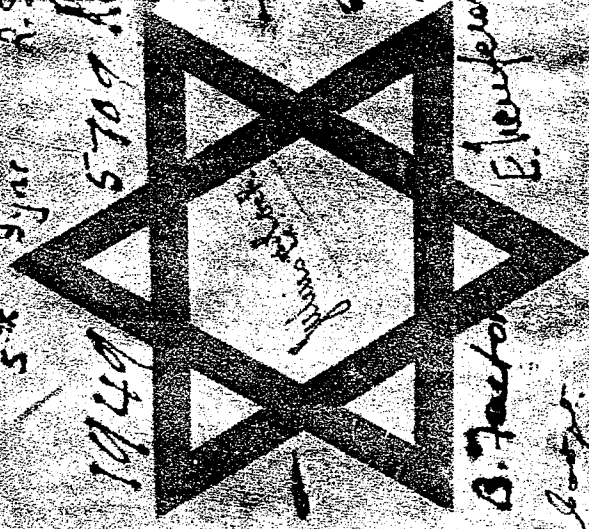
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B. Factor

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E. Scheuch

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