

1984. Lionel is a trustee of the Bowlers' Benevolent Fund and has been for many years. Ben Baron, was also a trustee.

Maurice Rudnick is the current treasurer of the Zimbabwe Bowling Assn. Bowls continues to dominate Jewish sport in Bulawayo.

Boxing has had a prominent position in Rhodesian sport. One of the earliest references to boxing was a match in 1902 in Bulawayo between Hancock and J S Moss of Manchester. Moss was Middleweight Champion of the British Army. His son, Sonny Moss, was a boxer while in Johannesburg.

Early boxing promoters included Bob Climer and Harry Stodel, both instrumental in arranging fights for Alfie Baynard, the "Cast-Iron Jew", Neil Thomson and other famous boxers of the day. Thomson was billed to fight for a big purse in Salisbury but his opponent failed to turn up. As there was a full house and it was known that Stodel, the promoter, had a boxing reputation, he was asked to fill the gap, to which he agreed. Naturally, there was no decision, but what the spectators saw was no exhibition bout. It was a splendid fight that went full distance. Stodel opened a boxing school in Bulawayo and instructed many pupils. His son, who was in Bulawayo in 1933, was also a good boxer. Many years ago, Bulawayo had two outstanding boxers in Leon Krell and Barney Lobel, lads with tremendous punches.

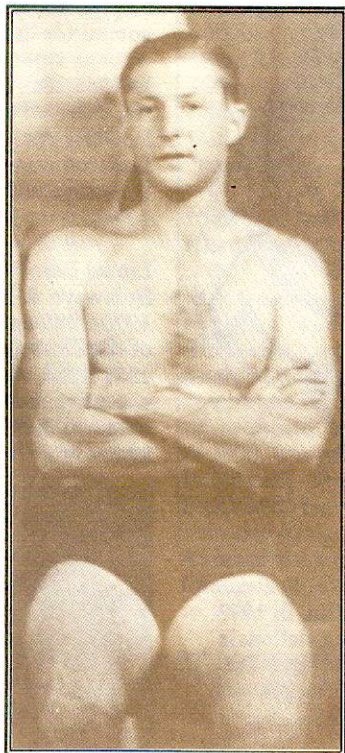
In 1930, a local team comprising Willie Treger, Kenneth Thal, John Meltzer, Sidney Gruber and Hymie Baron, fought a Pretoria Junior team. Four of them won their weights. Three Thal brothers visited Bulawayo with a Northern Rhodesian boxing team, one of whom, Basil, won the Featherweight contest and became Rhodesian Champion. Although none went on to fight competitively, many Jewish boys learned to box at an early age. This was usually in self-defence because not only were they Jewish but they were mocked for attending girls' boarding schools in Bulawayo!

Chess: Maurice Pines was Rhodesian chess champion in 1952. Then in 1978 as part of the 30th *Yom Ha'Atzmaut* the Herzlia Chess club organised an international youth chess tournament. Rhodesia was represented by David Meltzer.

Cricket: The first inter-town competition between Bulawayo and Salisbury was

September 1897 in Salisbury. The Cup was presented by Mr Hirschler, Bulawayo's mayor.

Outstanding among Jewish cricketers in Rhodesia were the Rabinson Brothers. In 1911, the Logan Cup Competition between Bulawayo and Salisbury, Ben Rabinson scored 81 runs and took 3 wickets for 26 runs. In 1913 he top scored for Rhodesia against a Tvl touring team.



H Katzenberg with Shark Amateur Swimming Club 1953/54.

Phil Rabinson, who first represented Rhodesia in 1922, also represented Mat'land, Midlands and Mashonaland over the next few years, and was one of the few Rhodesian sportsmen to have this triple honour. Not only was he a clever bowler, but it was said that he was as "fine a type of sportsman as one could wish to meet". His national bowling average was 11, 20 which still compares favourably with today's players.

Other names include: Sidney Hepker — great after the war; Vickey Hepker — played for Tvl and represented Mat'land; Eli Zacks — a useful batsman, wicket-keeper; J M Fox — excelled at cricket (and football); Harold Fox — respected umpire; Cecil and Mervyn Harris

both played for Rhodesia. Mervyn was included in the 1949 side, but his brother Cecil made his name for Rhodesia. He was wicket keeper for the national side from 1946 to 1954 and made 100 dismissals. He is listed with those who made the most dismissals in a career.

Off the field Asher Bernstein managed the Rhodesian Cricket team on its SA Tour in 1952, a team in which Cecil Harris was included. Prior to his arrival in Rhodesia, Asher played Currie Cup Cricket for Eastern Province in 1938 and on arriving in Bulawayo he was wicket keeper for Queens in their First Team.

Lionel Bernstein, a useful all rounder who played first league BAC, was a founder of Balfour Park in Johannesburg, where he played 1st League cricket, hockey and baseball. He accompanied the Australian Touring Team (1966/67) to Hwange and Victoria Falls. The side, managed by Richie Benaud, included many famous players such as Bob Simpson (current manager of the

Australian team,) Ian Chappell, Neil Hawke and Bob Gray.

In the last 30 years, many youngsters such as Errol Rudnick, David Kibel, who was an outstanding leg spin bowler, played 1st team cricket at school, and at provincial level within their age groups, but none went on to succeed at national level. Other names include: A Marks — Mat'land Nuffield XI 1965; Trevor Harris — Fawns (U/15).

Hockey: Sonny Jacobson represented the Cape Province while at UCT and also represented Mat'land. Although selected for Rhodesia, he was unfortunately not able to play. His brother Lesley played for Midlands. Ralph Fredman represented Mat'land. Harry Mathieson, the Kaufman brothers and Alex Ralstein were also prominent.

Others include: Alfie Sager, a Springbok hockey Captain; Lily Sager; Naomi Barnett for Mat'land B; Gus Fredman, a Mat'land goalkeeper; Lily Schneider, who was vice-captain of Mat'land Women's B Team and later represented Rhodesia.

More recently Louise Menashe was the only Jewish sportswoman to shine on the hockey field. A great all-rounder, she was voted the most prominent hockey player at Townsend School when aged 14. She continued to play at competition level until she concentrated more on squash.

Fishing: Again Jack Moss' name comes up. He was a great enthusiast and was Hon secretary of the Rhodesian Angling Society from 1928-1930. In 1930, he won the Carp Cup for the member taking the greatest aggregate weight of sizable carp during the year.

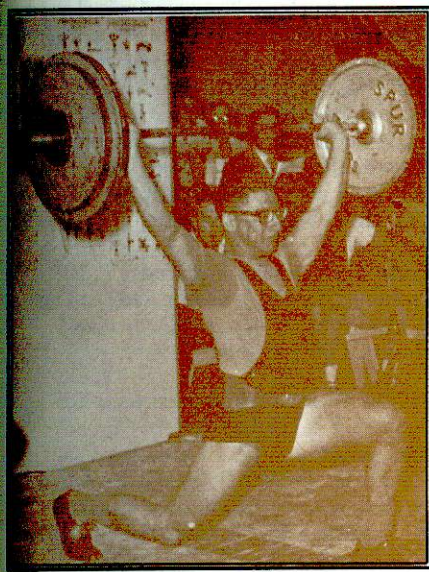
Golf: Les Owens was captain of the Bulawayo Golf Club for many years and Maurice Thal went to the Maccabi Games in 1973.

Horse Racing: The Bulawayo Turf Club has been well served by our brethren. Early members were Paddy Landau and H B Ellenbogen. Mr O Kaufman and Mr Landau were members of the Executive and Landau was also chairman of Tattersalls Club. The first meeting of the Bulawayo Turf Club was in 1894 and on that occasion the starter was Mr I Hirschler.

Among some of the prominent racehorse owners of the past were Barney Goldberg,



Winners of the National Championships Tournament (Fours), 1967. (From left): Aron Keet, Julius Wertheimer, Max Rosin, Sonny Jacobson.



Jock Orkin snatching 200 lbs Rhodesian Championships, Bulawayo, 1964, on his way to Middleweight Title.

was nominated for trials between North and South in Johannesburg to commemorate the Jubilee. Other players are: Reg Sagar, Rodney Broomberg, Jeffery Sommer, Ralph Lazarus (also ref) played for Mat'land; Hymie Sachs; Bernie Myers (Mat'land against Midlands - Russell Cup); Robin Feldman; Ivan Margolis (full colours and selected for Combined Bulawayo Schools Team, Sept 1962. In July 1965 was selected to

Galloping Gourmet

An Xmas advert which appeared in the 1898 cyclostyled edition of *The Nugget* read: "Fressers laying in *Nasches* should not fail to pay a visit to Mr M Sonnenberg who has in stock seasonable delicacies such as Plum puddings etc ... This young and energetic purveyor of toothsome trifles intends erecting, by the way, with the turn of the year, new and more commodious premises for the continuance of his business."

play for Mat'land and Rhodesian Rugby U/20's sides.); Neville Bernstein — in 1966 while still at school played in Rhodesia Craven week and went on to play in the Under-23 Rhodesian team. He also played for Goshawks; Gary Myers went on *aliyah* in 1979 and played for the Israeli side.

More recently David Helfer played for Zimbabwe Schools in 1980 and was the scrum half for the national side from 1985 to 1987. David Brest represented Mat'land for three years from 1990 to 1993.

excellent full back with a "terrific boot". He became secretary of the Rhodesia Football Assn for 15 years and furthered the interests of young players. He took a Junior Soccer team to SA (1928/30).

W W Feigenbaum was known as one of the best referees in Rhodesia at the time. Harry Linde played for Mat'land and Rhodesia 1922/23. He left for SA where he became a golf coach. Isa King, one of the finest Rhodesian

goalkeepers, died of war injuries.

Other names include: Hymie Sachs — came to Bulawayo in 1924 when soccer was at a low ebb. He did much to raise the level of play when he joined Callies. He won the first Austen Cup, the blue riband of Rhodesian soccer, which was an open competition throughout the Colony. In 1924 he captained Tvl and played for SA against Aberdeen; Issy Sachs — represented Bulawayo several times; David Hope went on trials for soccer in Joburg 1961; Sonny

Nick Amato, Asher Bernstein, Sam Gochin and more recently Stewards and Owners include Phil Rosen, Reg Sagar, Les Owens, Jeff Sommer, Everett Barrow and Brian Shapiro.

Rugby: The Rabinsons were the first Jewish men to have distinguished themselves here. They set high standards which were hard to follow. After a SA college team toured Rhodesia, they were among five players invited to Newlands for SA trials. They were outstanding among the three-quarters and their omission from the Springbok team was a mystery. In the first trial, Phil scored two tries and Ben one. In the second game, Ben scored twice and Phil once, in the final trial they each scored twice.

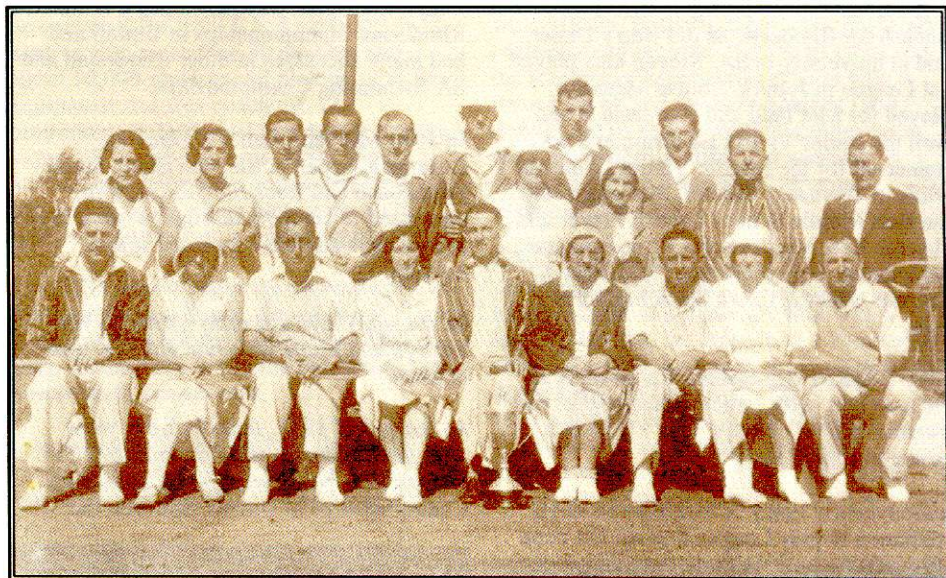
In 1914, Rhodesia entered the Currie Cup for the first time, in Durban. Lionel Rabinson, the youngest member of the side, played in every match as full back, centre and half back, all of which he filled with credit.

Phil and Ben Rabinson were brilliant on the attack. Of the 35 points scored by the Rhodesians that season, 27 were scored by the Rabinsons.

During the SWA Campaign (1915), an inter-regimental competition was played at Walvis Bay and was won by the 1st Rhodesian Regiment, among whom was Ben Rabinson. He was killed shortly after, being the first Rhodesian to die on active service.

In 1926, JM (Sonny) Fox came to the fore in Bulawayo. By 1935 he was still one of Rhodesia's leading fullbacks. He had a splendid record, which was continued by his younger brother Harold, a top hooker.

Louis Gruber and Hymie Baron (1930s/40s) two fine scrum halves; Simon Wolffe, a centre three-quarter of outstanding merit played fly half just as well. Simon's kicking was phenomenal and he was a tower of strength in defence. He



Combined Salisbury and Bulawayo Jewish Guild Tennis Teams, Bulawayo 1933. Teams were (Salisbury) L Harris (capt), A Stein, L Joelson, N Krikler, R Issacson, S Shalovsky, Mesdames Lewin, Shalovsky, Shapiro, Miss D Klug. (Bulawayo) Chas Whiteson (Capt), I Sarif, N Rabinovitch, A Rabinovitch, I Kransdorf, E Zacks, Mesdames W Kaplan, A Kaplan, Miss L Ralstein, Miss J Solomon, Ben Baron (Pres).

One of the earliest recorded names is that of M Kirschbaum (1906). It is not know where he came from. In administration Asher Bernstein was a member of the Rhodesian Rugby Board while he was chairman of the Queens rugby section.

Shooting: Jack Moss was a fine shot. Harry Baron and Charles Whiteson also showed considerable promise but did not continue with the sport.

Soccer: A few Jews were involved in the early days. Charles and Bob Granger were two fine players. Charles Whiteson was an

Moss played for Queens; Len Michaels played for Callies; Paddy Landau, Louis Banet, Willie Fredman were great exponents of the game in 1930s.

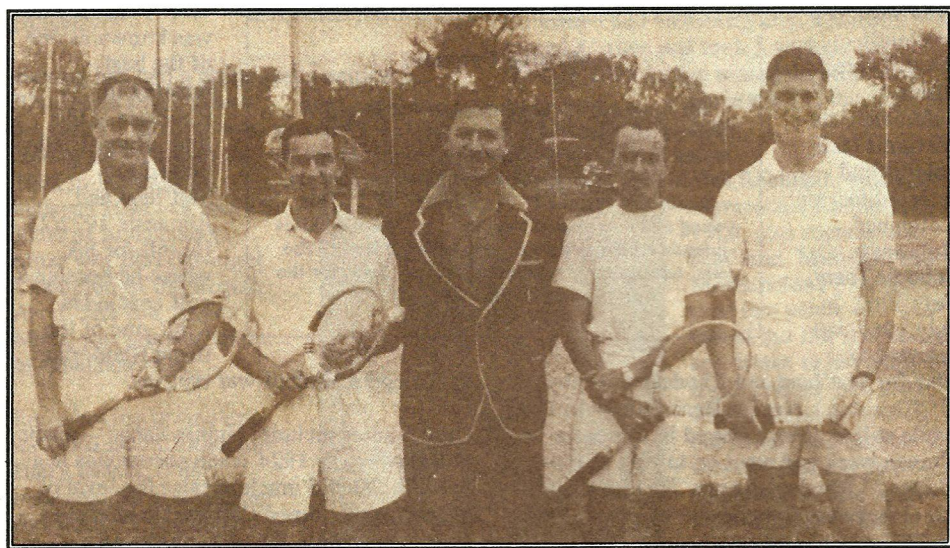
In 1961 Rodney Plett captained the Rhodesian Under 16 team while Adrian Raucher played in it.

In the early 1970s, although the Maccabi team was successful in the Junior League, winning the Mat'land League and the Five-a-side contest, none of the team members went on to accomplish any more achievements.

Squash: Many Parkview players represented Rhodesia at squash the first being Natie Lieberman followed by Ronnie Lange in the late 1950s. Ian Raizon played for Rhodesia (1966), the year he won Mat'land and BAC Championships.

Games. In 1963 she entered the SA Swimming Championships and later that year represented Rhodesia at the Empire Games in Perth, Australia. She successfully swam the following year in the Rhodesian Swimming Championships and was

Under 13 trophy at Townsend school and in 1973 represented Rhodesia in SA and at the Maccabi Games. That year, she won the Junior Victrix Ludorum at school. In 1974 she was awarded school colours and was runner-up for the Middle Victrix Ludorum and won the Under 14 trophy. She continued to swim competitively throughout her school career..



Rhodesian Maccabi Tennis Team, Parkview Club, 1952. (From left): C Stein, D Salomon, A Sarif (Chair RMC), S Sher, B Katz.

Karin Owens was awarded Mat'land and Rhodesian colours in 1972 and played for Western Province while at Cape Town. Neil and Steven Tatz both played Under 18 Squash for Rhodesia, as did Barry Disler, and at university in SA; Steven also played 1st League in Joburg. Louise Menashe played for Mat'land and Rhodesia B and won the Junior Victrix Ludorum and was runner-up for the Middle Victrix Ludorum while at Townsend School. She was voted the Best Middle School Squash Player and also the Best Middle School Sportswoman. As a senior, she represented Rhodesia A and was selected for an SA schoolgirls' side.

Tony Whistler represented Rhodesia B at the time and, with Janice Graham who was awarded school colours, they all made a powerful school team.

More recently many Jewish players have continued to play League Squash but none have achieved national honours. All is not lost as in 1993 Mat'land Junior squash colours were awarded to Ilan Wiesenbacher and David Chitrin. The latter not only excelled in sport but was also awarded recognition for his courtesy.

Dr Bernie Tatz is Hon Life vice president of the Mat'land Squash Assn.

Swimming: Walter Rubin of Bulawayo was a good swimmer and Sonny Fisher an outstanding goalkeeper in water polo. He represented Rhodesia in the 1930s. Fred Goldstein played for 1st League water polo team.

In 1963 Colin Marks was included in the Mat'land Swimming Team

The best known Jewish swimmer is Marilyn Sidelsky. In 1961 she won the Bronze medal for 100m backstroke at the Maccabi

re-selected to Rhodesian Swimming Team. She broke more records in May 1964, and went on to represent Rhodesia in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. She participated in the Rhodesian Championships in Umtali and had many successes in other Rhodesian and SA Swimming Championships.

In 1964 Mat'land Junior Swimming Colours awarded to Stephen Baitz, Stanley Sonnabend and Rochelle Suskin, who continued to compete throughout their high school days and were awarded school colours.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s Hylton, Selwyn and Merle Solomon got Mat'land colours.

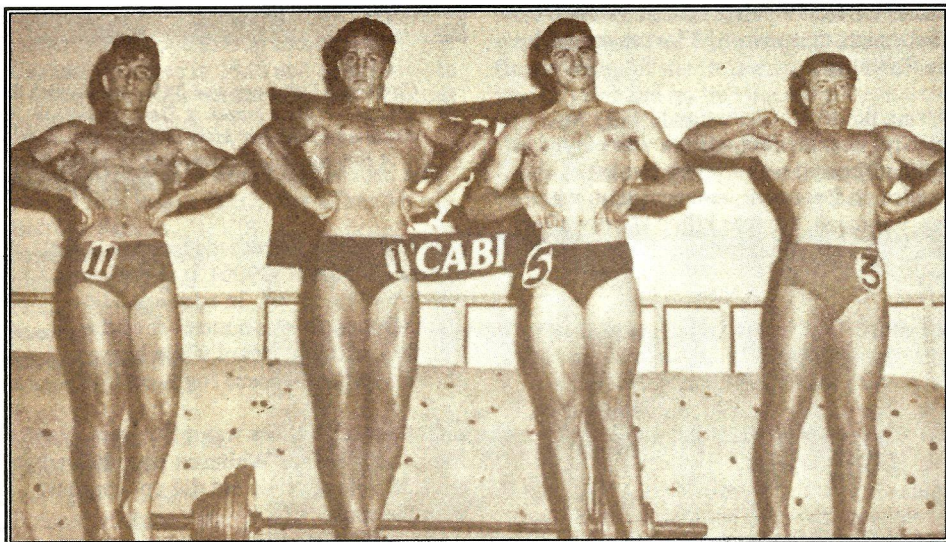
At the end of 1971, Jennifer Levy went with the Rhodesian team on tour to N Tvl and the next year, swam in the Rhodesian Championships in Umtali. She won the

Table Tennis: Pace setters were Hymie Rachbind, Gerald Whiteson and Leo Baron. In 1960 Avril Kadey won the Mat'land Women's Singles title.

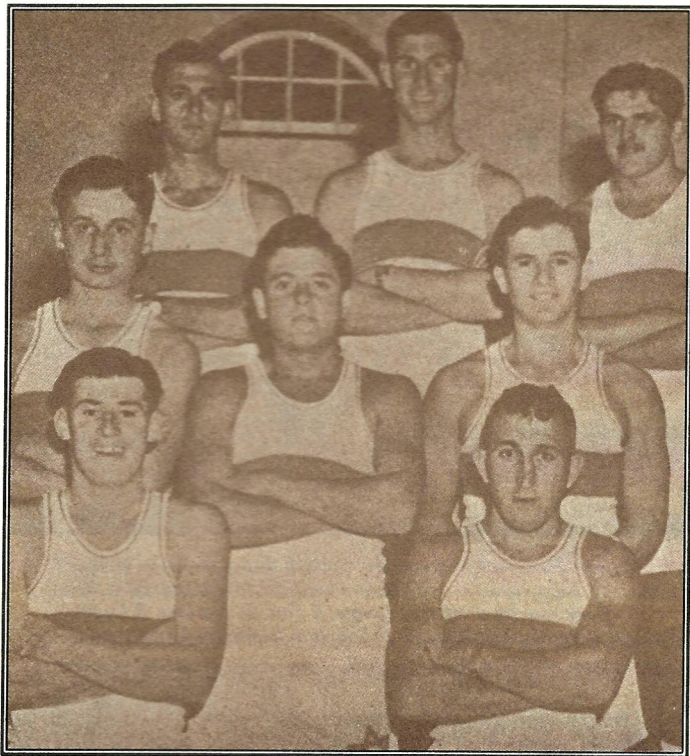
Tennis: Charles Whiteson, a versatile sportsman in his day, won the Queens championship in 1933 but declined the chance to represent Bulawayo at a national level, as he was committed to captaining the Bulawayo Jewish Guild team travelling to Salisbury at the same time. Mrs W Kaplan and Helen Gerber became Mat'land Ladies' Doubles Champions and Miss Gerber won the Rhodesian Junior Championship in the 1930s.

In 1959, Geoffrey Rosenberg and Ronnie Zlattner represented Mat'land in the Provincial Tennis Championship and played in Rhodesian Junior Tennis Championships.

Although there were many fine tennis players, few have risen to high ranks. An exception is Basil Katz. Not only did he achieve local success but in 1952 he qualified for the main draw of Wimbledon. He was the first Rhodesian to do so, followed by Donald Black in 1953. Basil played at Wimbledon four times and became a quarter finalist in the mixed doubles. He also played in other tournaments around Europe being away for several months at a time. In 1961 he was beaten in the semis of the Men's Singles at the Maccabi Games. His opponent was Dick Savitt, a former Wimbledon champion who went on to take the gold medal. On the local scene that year, he captained the Federation tennis team on its tour to Cape Town, with Frank Salomon a team member. Basil won the Rhodesian Mixed Doubles for three consecutive years with Helen Gruber and,



Mr Maccabi Contest, 1960. (From left): Dave Baron (4th), Paul Jaffa (3rd), Arnold Ross (2nd) Salvo Hannon (winner)



Balfour Club's First Basketball Team, 1952. (Back from left): Sonny Herman, Basil Katz, Myer Smiezer. (Centre): David Vides, Mervyn Lange (Capt), Hymie Shapiro. (Front): Gert Fabian, Ralph Lazarus.

in 1963, he was runner-up in the Rhodesian Singles Championship. He won the Doubles Title in the Rhodesian Tennis championship in March 1966.

Basil continues to contribute to tennis in Zimbabwe and was deputy president of the Zimbabwe Tennis Assn for more than 15 years. He is now chairman of the Mat'land Tennis Board which has incorporated the National Tennis Development (NTD) programme under its umbrella.

Other notable names are: Frank Salomon — First Davis Cup Team for Rhodesia, March 1963; His twin brothers Alan and Brian Salomon, Rhodesian Junior Boys Double Tennis finals; In 1972 Liora Reiff was awarded Mat'land colours and continued to play at provincial level in the different age categories while she was at senior school. In 1974 she won the Under 18 Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Desiree Katz represented Mat'land B at inter-provincial level. Still in 1974 Belinda Grill was the runner-up in the Under-15 section and was chosen to play in an SA tourney in Stellenbosch. She was the Junior Singles Champion at Townsend School. Belinda and Louise Menashe were both awarded school colours for tennis. They continued to win many awards in their school careers. Michelle Grill also achieved success in junior tennis.

At provincial level in the 1970s Bobby Favish and Larry Katz were fine players with the latter continuing his tennis and playing on the satellite circuit in India and Hawaii.

Perhaps Larry's proudest achievement was the formation of the National Tennis

Development "Reach Out" programme in Bulawayo. In 1987 he started with one tennis centre at White City with the idea to reach out and bring tennis to children in high density areas and to underprivileged throughout the country. It was not only to teach tennis but to take children off the streets and involve them in a tennis and social programme.

An American, Jim Lays, took an interest in the project and organised donations of Prince racquets and other equipment which arrived via the US embassy. Local coaches which as Mkulu Khupe and Patrick Mlauzi assisted and together they developed a large, successful

programme. By 1990 it had extended to 11 centres with more than 30 coaches and about 10,000 children, all playing with free equipment and free coaching. The programme helped send four tennis players to the US on scholarships. Many junior tournaments have been dominated by NTD players, some of whom have gone on to represent Zimbabwe in junior events.

The NTD is now under the umbrella of the Mat'land Tennis Board. Together with Basil Katz, coaches Mkulule Khupe and Dallas Siso, it continues to run the programme and ensure its future success.

In more recent times Graham Cohen, a successful junior player went on a tennis scholarship to the US and Russell Myers,

born in Bulawayo, played successfully for Israel after his family went on *aliyah*.

Weightlifting: In December 1962 Arnold Ross won the Lightweight Title at the Rhodesian Championship and Jock Orkin was runner-up. Jock came third in the Federal Championships.

Body building was popular at the time and Paul Jaffa won Mr Southern Rhodesia that same year.

Lily Miller

She gave many years of devoted service to Zionism and Jewish communal endeavours. She was active in the Communal League and became an executive of Wizo. Her great love was JNF and she served on its National Committee. Made Hon Life member of Wizo and a plaque is dedicated to her in Gan Yeladim (Rhodesia/Zimbabwe) in Israel. She served on the Synagogue Ladies' Guild, helped start Savyon Lodge, and was chairman of the Savyon Housing Committee.

The following year, Jock Orkin was again runner-up in the Lightweight class lifting 535 lbs, but later that year won the title lifting 585 lbs. In July 1964, Jock again won the Lightweight title lifting 665 lbs, while Arnold Ross won Middleweight title with 635 lbs. Between them, they broke six Mashonaland records. Jock went on to win the Rhodesian Middleweight Title with a record lift of 730 lbs in December 1964. Arnold did us proud with his runner-up in the Lightweight section. He was also chairman of the Rhodesian Amateur Weightlifters Assn.

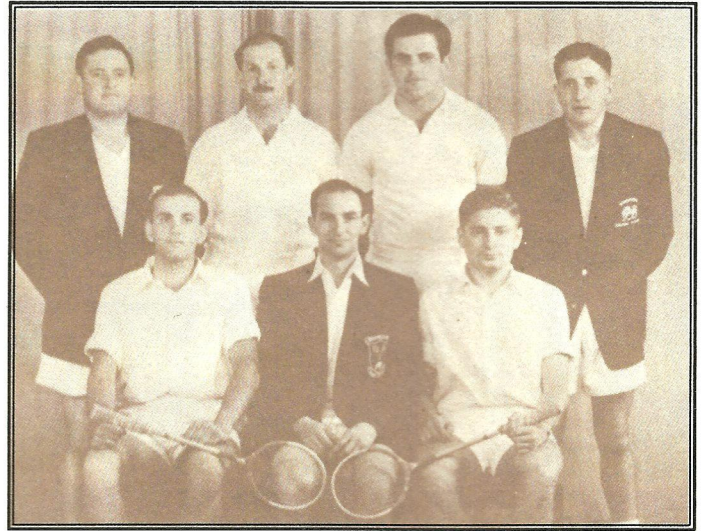
John Orkin won the BAT Cup for Sportsman of the Year and retained Mashonaland middleweight title with a total of 735 lbs, for three lifts, a Rhodesian record. In 1969 Jock won the Bronze medal at the Maccabi Games and in 1972 he represented Rhodesia at the Munich Olympic Games. He later set a new Rhodesian total record of 821 lbs in the Rhodesian championships in 1981. ☆



Rugby Currie Cup, 1914: The only known sports picture of all three Rabinson brothers together. (Bottom row 2nd, 3rd, 4th from left) B Rabinson, P Rabinson, L Rabinson.



Above: Parkview Winners Ladies Reserve League, Tennis, 1963.
 (Back from left): J Gruss, E Lange, R Tatz.
 (Front): L Schneider, N Barnett (Capt), J Treger.



Above: Parkview Sports Club, Squash Racquets Team, Winners Bulawayo 1st League and Underwood Shield, 1956.
 (Back row from left): M Lange, B Tatz, M Smiezer, R Lange.
 (Front): R Gubbay, D H Salomon (Capt), M Lieberman.

Right: Parkview-Weizmann Ladies Squash 1st League, 1974.
 (Back from left): N Barnett, L Menashe.
 (Front): K Lowenthal, P Menashe.



Below Right: Balfour Youth Club Rugby team, 1947.

(Back from left): G Einhorn, S Golden, A L Sager, M Thal, B H Sweke, S H Shapiro. (Middle): L Rabinowitz, J Baitz, A Bernic, H L Woolfson, B King, J Brenner. (Front): E B Hyman, R E Sager (vice capt), E D Solomon (capt), N I Amato (manager), D H Salomon, J A Sonnabend. (Insets): M Meltzer, G Haimovitz. Mascot front: Louis Amato.

Off Key

In a Yiddish play produced in Bulawayo, a well-known tenor had just reached the final note of his climactic aria in "The Beggar's Opera", (the company had run out of money so that is why they used this title,) when the director shouted: "Stop, for heaven's sake stop!" He took pity on the singer who was looking at him in great puzzlement and said: "Sorry, my boy, but you may have the right key, but you're in the wrong flat."

Spelt Wrong

The change in the spelling of the town's name from Buluwayo to Bulawayo was announced in *The Chronicle* on March 4 1896.

Aged Youth

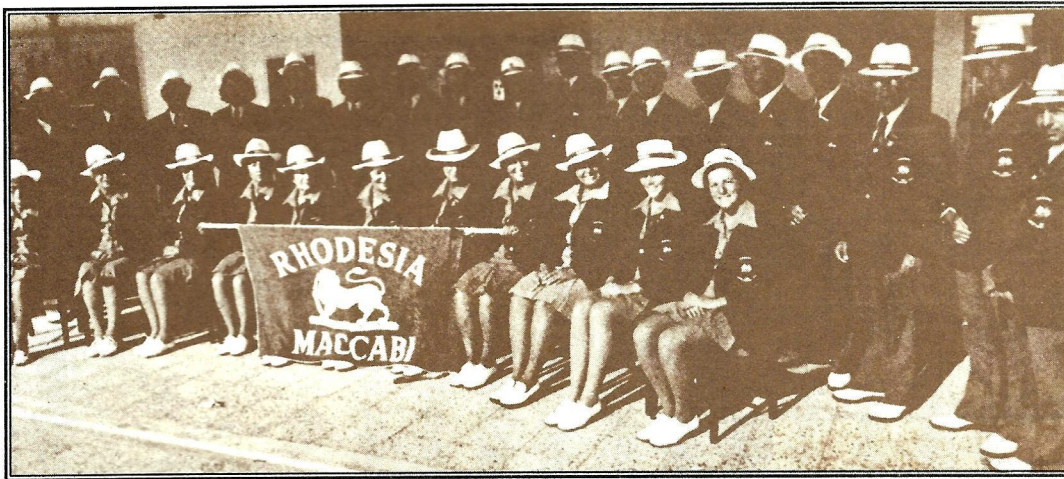
In 1971 the community was worried about its younger members. Sub-committees were being formed by virtually every organisation, such as the youth sub-committees set up by Wizo, the Board of Deputies and others. Commented Mark Markov in a message to the Bulawayo Betar, "The only Jewish organisation which has so far not established a youth sub-committee is the Jewish Old Aged Home."

Sea Travel

In 1958, Bulawayo Jews contemplating a sea trip to Israel were advised they could travel from Cape Town to Haifa in luxury berths.



Maccabi Games



Rhodesian Maccabi Games Team, 1973, 9th Maccabiah. (Standing from left): M Thal, M Israel, K Rodman, S Fine, J Trappler, M Grill, N Codron, J Orkin, H Bamberger (asst manager), S Loewenson, L Bernstein (capt), I Codron,

THE first Maccabi Club was formed in Constantinople in 1895. At the first Zionist Congress in Basle (1897), Jewish gymnasts gave an impressive display before Herzl. After World War One, the Maccabi World Union was formed, first with an office in Berlin and then in London. To this day, it is organised on a basis of territorial branches with membership running into hundreds of thousands.

The Maccabi World Union is recognised by the International Olympics Committee as an organisation of Olympic standing and the Maccabi Games are recognised by all international sports federations and Regional Games with their official observers in attendance at the Games.

The first Maccabiah was in Tel Aviv in 1932. It takes place every four years with more than 1,500 athletes from around the world. Rhodesia first took part in 1953 and continued to do so until 1977 when politics intervened and all arrangements had to be cancelled.

5th Maccabiah 1957

Lily Gruber won Israeli Open singles title in Ramat Gan.

6th Maccabiah 1961

The Rhodesian team consisted of Max Rosin, H Weinberg, G Suskin, N Codron (Men's Bowls); P Rosin, O Katz, J Suskin, R Codron (Ladies' Bowls); Basil Katz (tennis); Marilyn Sidelsky (swimming).

Gold — P Rosin (Ladies Singles bowls)

Silver — Olive Katz/Bokkie Suskin (bowls pairs)

Silver — Men's rinks

Bronze — Ladies rinks

Bronze — M Sidelsky (swimming 100m backstroke)

7th Maccabiah 1965

Competitors included the following from Bulawayo: Arnold Ross and Jock Orkin (weightlifting); H Grill, S Solomon, N Grill, G Suskin, Rose Etkin, Bokkie Suskin, Olive Katz, Lily Gruber (bowls.)

Gold — Women's Rinks (L Gruber/S Etkin with N Koval/R Schrier of Harare)

8th Maccabiah 1969

Gold — Lily Gruber (women's singles bowls)

Gold — Women's rinks (R Etkin/O Katz with R Codron/N Koval of Harare)

Silver — Charlie Kimin (men's singles bowls)

Silver — May Sher (women's pairs bowls)

Bronze — Sammy Sher (men's pairs bowls)

Bronze — Jock Orkin (weightlifting)

9th Maccabiah 1973

Manager — Gaby Suskin

Gold — Sammy Sher (fours with Codron, Loewenson and Blacher of Harare)

Silver — Lionel Bernstein (men's pairs with M Sklar of Harare)

Bronze — Jack Trappler (men's singles bowls)

Bronze — Janine Kaplan (220 yds athletics)

Bronze — Leonard Helfer (athletics)

Other team members included Bokkie Suskin and Rose Etkin (bowls); Jennifer Levy (swimming); Maurice Thal (golf); Jock Orkin (weightlifting)

10th Maccabiah 1977: cancelled

11th Maccabiah 1981: Larry Katz individual.

No entries in 1985, 1989 or 1993.

Ivor Altshuler was president of the Rhodesian Maccabi Assn for five years (1968-1973). He played a big part in arranging to send the 1969 team to the Games in Israel. He was that team's manager and was highly praised for our sterling efforts that year. He was mainly



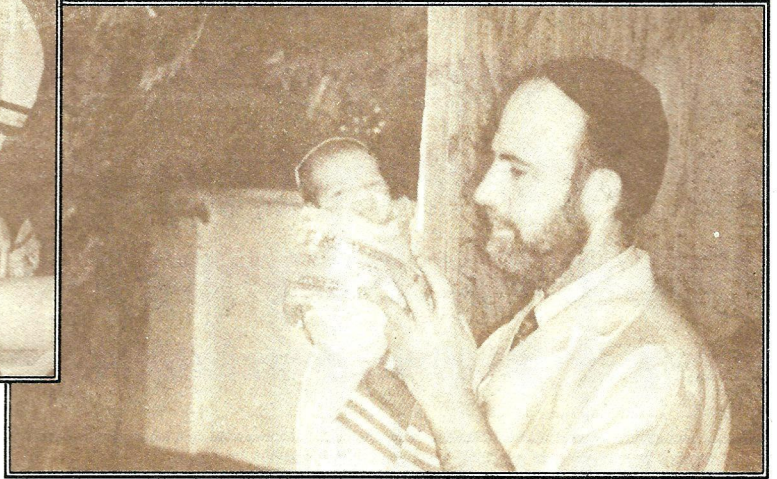
Rhodesian Maccabi Games Team, 1965, 7th Maccabiah. (Standing from left): Silvie Solomon, Jock Orkin, Nathie Grill, Harry Grill, Arnold Ross, Gaby Suskin. (Sitting): Schrier, Jeanette Suskin, Rose Etkin, Nina Koval, Olive Katz, Lily Gruber.

responsible for starting the Maccabi cricket team which played in the reserve league in Bulawayo in the early 1970s and Ivor got Carmel School its first playing field

In 1972 a group of youngsters became the first Maccabi junior team to enter the official Junior Soccer League. During that season the team played nine matches of which four were lost and five won.

The 1972 Mat'land Junior Tennis Tournament held in Bulawayo attracted a bumper entry from all over Rhodesia, including 28 Jewish children, all past and present pupils of Carmel School. ☆

The 1990s



(Picture top left): David Chitrin's Bar Mitzvah, 1993, with his father Raphael, Rabbi Isaacson and uncle George Kaufman.

(Picture top right): Asher Linde being brisped by Rabbi Sher, 1994.

(Picture middle left): The 1992 Bat Mitzvot of Gila Lepar, Lisa Sher, Nicola Lurie. Behind them Brian Sher, Rodney Lepar, Stuart Lurie.

(Picture middle right): Carmel Class of '71 Reunion, 1993. Seated from left: Nadine Boyer, Nadine Owens, Rebecca Schay, Lynette Woolfson. Second Row: Stanley Miller, Jennifer Bernstein, Deborah Konson, Barbara Hyman. Third row: Jonathan Swiel, David Kibel, Leonard Helfer, Joel Dorfan and Stephen Tatz. Back two: David Hodes, Danny Elkaim.

(Picture bottom left): Carmel School play 1993, "Mary Poppins"

(Picture bottom right): Loyal staff at the Cazo Offices: Daphne Sher, secretary for ten years, standing from left: Duncan Sibanda (51 years of service), Elijah Mlilo (44 years), Sandram Banda (15 years), Anderson Machona (19 years). Dick Nyandora who has been with Cazo for 48 years was absent due to illness.



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Mrs E Levin
H & E Bloch



More Market News

November 1 1895: Cats sold on the Bulawayo morning market at 2s to 3s each. On the morning market February 7 1895: Eggs 6s 6d to 9s per dozen. Saturday morning market October 19 1895: Two cauliflowers realised £1 12s each. December 31 1895: Eggs sold at £1 a dozen on the morning market a record at that time later the price was 30/-. At a sale in Bulawayo on Wednesday February 10 1897: Donkeys were sold at £9 to £12 each, while a wagon and a span of donkeys fetched £230. A few bags of mealies realised £12 10s each.

Cardboard Cutouts

Cardboard gramophone records (78 rpm) were given to local Jews when many people did not have the chance to hear Dr N Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organisation during his rushed visit to the Federation in 1958. "Now you can hear him in the privacy of your home," read the advert. Dr Goldmann's message was on one side and two "rousing" Israeli songs on the other. The records could be played 200 times.

Population explosion

An estimation of the population of Bulawayo at December 31 1896: Males 600 (irrespective of officials) women, probably about 100. Children scarce.



Betar A-Guard, 1965. Can anyone identify the faces? They look like they had a great time and we hope you have had just as good-a-time reading this magazine.

References

We have relied heavily on the following:

"Majuta - a History of the Jewish Community in Zimbabwe" by B A Kosmin; Various works by S A Rochlin; "Historic Battleground of Rhodesia" by Oliver Ransford; "A Rhodesian Epic" — Books of Rhodesia; "Rhodesiana" — Pioneer Society of Zimbabwe; The South African Jewish Year Books; Directory of Jewish Organisations; Who's Who in South African Jewry 1929; "The Jewish Communities of Rhodesia and the North" by Rev M I Cohen; "The Early History of Bulawayo Jewry" by Rabbi C E Cassell; Memoirs of Sam Rabinovitz, Max King, Maurice Wagner, Kurt Heim; Central African Zionist Digest; The Rhodesian Jewish Journal; The Jewish Times; Commemorative issues of the Jewish Guild 50th Anniversary, Cazo 70th Anniversary, Bulawayo Hebrew

Congregation 50th and 75th Anniversaries, Silver Jubilee of Parkview Sports Club, Habonim 40th Anniversary; Minutes of Central African Board of Deputies, the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, JNF, Wizo, Cazo, Chevra Kadisha, Betar; Carmel School Silver Jubilee and school magazines, Carmel School Board minutes; The Bulawayo Chronicle; National Archives in Bulawayo — Bulawayo Directory 1895-98; "The Jews in South Africa — a History" edited by Gustav Saron and Louis Hotz; "The Way I saw It" by Max Sonnenberg ... and the many people who phoned or wrote with their snippets, and especially the photos.

Many, many thanks. We're only sorry we could not use them all.



Spot the difference. Chairman of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation Centennial Committee, Colin Gordon, and son!?



Byo Centenary Magazine

- Bulawayos Rabbis
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Whats new

History of Bulawayo Jewish Community buildings

March 2014 - Two documents added describing the history of the Jewish Community buildings and a copy of the Parkview Sports Club Silver Jubilee in 1961. Learn

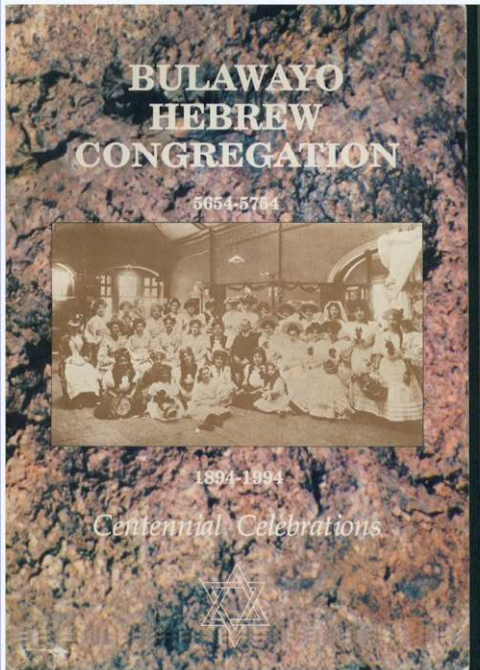
More... members over the years. Now includes pictures of Shul Presidents and a section on the Union of Jewish Women... Learn More...

Additional gravestones - Bulawayo Cemetery

June 2013 - The images of over 110 gravestones have been added to the Bulawayo Cemetery section of the website. Thanks to Vicky Kaufman for the photography. .

Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation

Below is the cover of the Magazine celebrating 100 years of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation published in 1994. You can read other selected pages from the magazine by clicking on the relevant page number or subject on the left or if not seen there [click here](#)



BULAWAYO HEBREW CONGREGATION

5654-5754



1894-1994

Centennial Celebrations



Editorial comment

An old man going along a highway
 Came in the evening, cold and grey
 To a chasm vast and deep and wide
 Through which was seeping a sullen tide.
 The old man crossed in the twilight dim.
 The sullen stream had no fear for him.
 But he stopped when safe on the other side
 And built a bridge to span the tide.
 "Old man," said a fellow standing near,
 "You are wasting your strength with
 building here.
 Your journey will end at the close of day
 And you never again will pass this way.
 You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide —
 Why build you this bridge at eventide?"
 The builder lifted his old, grey head
 "Good friend, in the path I have come,"
 he said,
 "There follows after me today
 A youth whose feet must pass this way.
 This chasm, which has been naught to me
 To the fair haired youth might a pitfall be.
 He too must cross in the twilight dim...
 Good friend, I am building this bridge for
 him."

From Perspective Magazine,
 King David School,
 Johannesburg.



THIS has been fun. When I was first asked to put together a magazine to celebrate 100 years of Bulawayo Jewry, I agreed ... thinking I could crack out a couple of articles, slap in a few photographs and it would be over in a few weeks.



Ha. Little did I know. So I enlisted the courageous assistance of Shelley, Charlotte, Jennifer, Elsa, Anne and Ruth — courageous because they were in the frontlines, ducking the salvos of the community which individually each had their own ideas of what the magazine should contain.

The verbal bullets flew. Some thought it should be only about the *shul*, others the whole of Zimbabwe Jewry; others said it should mention a few societies, others said all the societies, some said a few photos,

yet others argued they were not necessary; and people, *oy vey*, don't forget so-and-so whatever you do. Thank goodness no one suggested doing a critical analysis of The Bible and its relevance to the growth of Federation Jewry with schematic diagrams!

Battered and bruised and carrying not a few pieces of hysterical shrapnel, we ploughed ahead.

In this, the final edition, we hope we have encapsulated a comprehensive background of the Bulawayo Jewish community. We felt that although it was the *shul's* 100th birthday, a *shul* cannot exist without a society and all its doings, and the societies are intrinsically wound up with the squabbles, happy times and growth of the *shul*. All are necessary as all *are* the community.

Part of the fun has been the learning experience. Bulawayo had so much to offer and the nostalgia we each felt reading though the volumes of minutes, magazines, books; flipping through photos in boxes, in albums, in dusty corners; digging around little-used rooms in Cazo, Wizo House, even in the old Guild in the hopes of finding one more gem of history has been an experience we will always remember.

And we still haven't found all there is to know. Spending time with people conducting aural histories, others volunteering snippets from the past — we suddenly knew how much we didn't know and how much has been lost. Where are the *shul* minutes before 1939; the golden key that opened the Guild; the piano and gym equipment from the hall; the old copies of the *Jewish Guild Journal* circa 1919-1940s; the purple bands worn by the Chovevei Zion members and their gold badge of office; and the original photo of the Ladies Guild (see front cover)? All have gone missing, lost without a trace. We have tried to source them and herewith let you know that they *did* exist.

We hope that by producing this cross between an historic "tome" and a Reader's Digest of light facts, future generations will see how we developed the first 100 years.

When the editor of the bicentennial magazine puts together the following 100 years, at least some of our community's past will remain in the form of this "time capsule".

Happy reading. Happy memories.

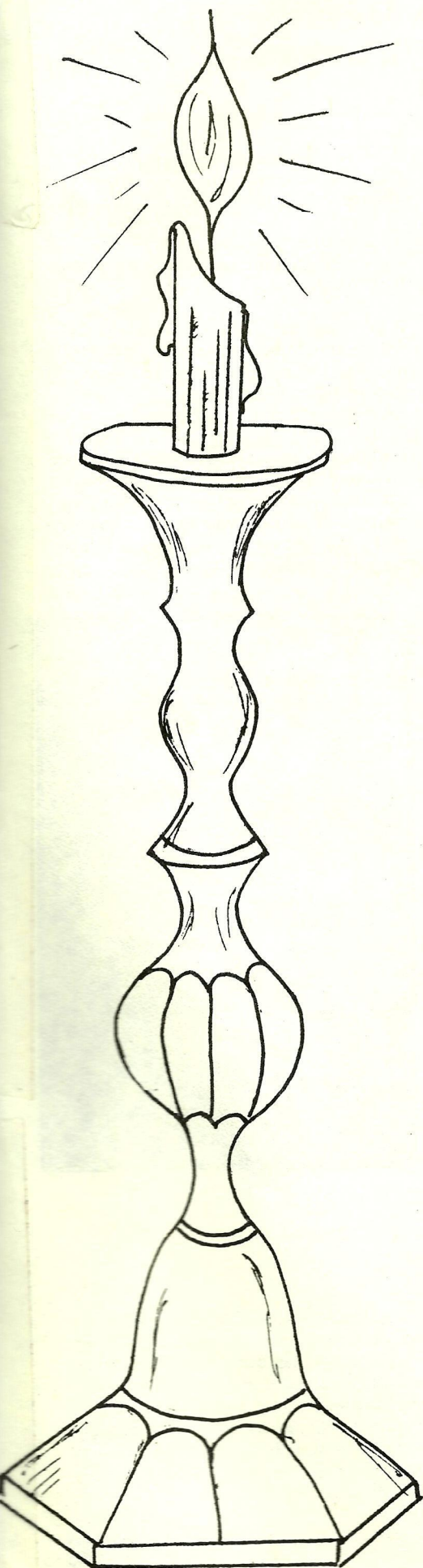
Ronit Loewenstern
 Editor

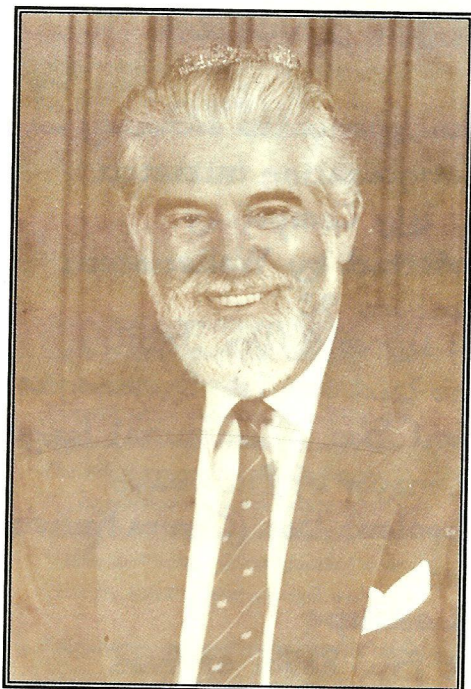


The Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation Centennial Magazine editorial committee (from left): Shelley Lasker, Ruth Feigenbaum, Charlotte Bernstein, Jennifer Bernstein, Ronit Loewenstern. Insets: Elsa Roth (left) and Anne Watts.

100 Years of Jewish Events

- 1869 Daniel Kisch employed as Lobengula's secretary.
- 1894 Aug 12: Byo. Hebrew Congregation initiated
First white child born: Lily Tempofsky
First Byo. newspaper started by Wallenstein
- 1895 Jewish population numbers 92
First Jewish marriage: Mr and Mrs Jacobs
- 1897 June: Foundation stone laid for 1st Synagogue
Jewish Ladies Benevolent Soc. (Communal League)
I. Hirschler elected first mayor of Bulawayo
Byo. Hebrew Aid & Benevolent Soc. (Chevra Kadisha)
- 1898 Chovevei Zion established.
First Education Board set up
- 1899 Rabbi. M. I. Cohen, first Byo Rabbi arrives
Jewish population grows to around 200
- 1901 Idlers Club started (forerunner to Jewish Guild)
Jewish population stands at around 300
- 1906 Jewish Guild officially established.
- 1913 First Ohel built at the cemetery
- 1922 Jewish Guild built
- 1932 Byo. Jewish Memorial Library founded
- 1933 Guild Library established.
First Habonim meeting held
- 1935 Louis Landau Hebrew School opened
- 1937 Parkview Tennis Club opened
- 1939 Yiddish Cultural Society created
- 1943 R.Z.C. and C.R.J. established (J. Board of Dep.)
- 1943 First Zionist Conference held
- 1945 Rhodesian JNF Department set up.
- 1948 Union of Jewish Women started.
- 1949 Byo. Jewish Country Club opened (Weizmann)
- 1956 Rhodesian Maccabi Association formed.
- 1958 Jewish population now approx. 2800
Progressive Synagogue consecrated
- 1960 Carmel Primary School opened
- 1962 Youth and Education centre opened
- 1968 Savyon Lodge opened
- 1971 Sinai Synagogue & Louis Treger Hall opened
- 1974 Hebrew Order of David founded
- 1980 Zimbabwe Independ. declared ~ no new
Jewish community development.
- 1994 100 years old! A small but vibrant
community (pop. 344) plans for the future...





A message from

Chief Rabbi Cyril K Harris

Chief Rabbi of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues of South Africa

The Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation has a long and proud history, and the entire Jewish community joins in sending warm congratulations on the historic occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

The synagogue of our formative years always leaves an indelible impression on us, no matter how many other communities we join when we move on to more distant places. The very many thousands who over the century grew up in Bulawayo have reason to recall with sincere gratitude the spiritual personalities, dedicated teachers and selfless communal workers, all of whom played a successful part in instilling viable Jewish identity to the congregation.

Looking back over the years, one is amazed at the record of achievement in religious,

cultural and philanthropic spheres, sustained generation after generation by the vibrant Jewish population of Bulawayo.

Anniversaries provide not only the opportunity to look backwards, but also to look to the future.

A great measure of courage and tenacity will require to be exercised in the years ahead so that yet another proud chapter may be added to the chronicles of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation.

On this very special anniversary, we salute the inimitable Rabbi Ben Isaacson, the admirable Alan Feigenbaum, and all the wonderful stalwarts who keep the beautiful *shul* going and the flag of Judaism flying proudly in Bulawayo. ☆

A message from

Rabbi B Isaacson

Spiritual Head of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation

While preparing this Centenary message in honour of the Congregation which I have the privilege to serve, I paged through the Commemoration Brochure of the 75th Anniversary held in August 1969. What strikes one is the euphoria.

Here was a community a good few thousand strong but at the beginning of the period of decline in numbers that was to escalate so drastically during the 1970s. Yet, the atmosphere is one of optimism and a readiness to go forward into the future. How Jewish is that optimism! How typical of a community on the brink of crisis to think positively and how characteristically Jewish is this trait.

Together with our commitment to the eternal tenets of our faith throughout the ages, I would say that it is the eternal optimism of the Jew that has preserved us to this day.

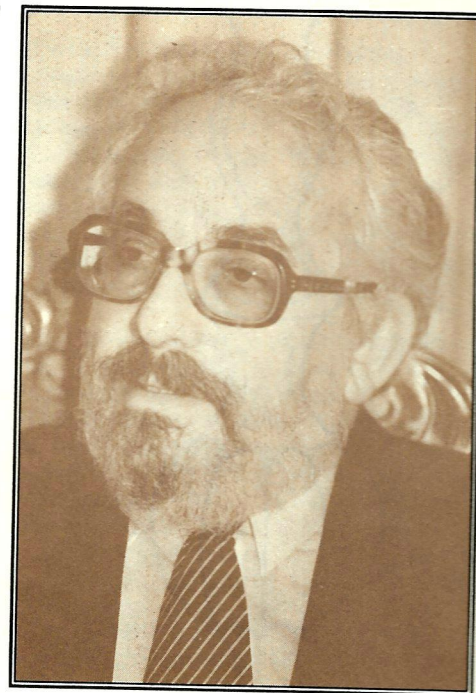
Can we, now down to 350 souls in number, continue to be so optimistic? The demographic situation is not encouraging. We are an ageing community with no great reserves of youth and unfortunately, as yet, no signs of a new and fresh influx of Jews. And yet, the spirit is there; in fact greater in some ways than when Bulawayo had almost ten times the number of Jews. On January 12 1965, a unilateral declaration of independence was made by a group of faithful Bulawayo Jews led by Mr Golden.

This declaration led to the introduction of the daily *minyan* which strangely enough had not been in existence before then. Since that time due to the dedication of a handful of faithful regulars and a group of other members who take part on a roster basis, the voice of prayer had been heard in our synagogue morning and evening without interruption. This achievement is meritorious and is the envy of many congregations in southern Africa. Of this we can justly be proud.

There are however other spheres in our spiritual life that need re-appraisal and a Centenary which is the time for celebration should also be the occasion for re-examination.

The Sabbath and Festival attendances are woefully weak and it is the same small band of dedicated regulars who keep the flag of Jewish observance raised high. Will this dedication continue in the future? That is the question congregants have to answer at this time.

It is not the size of the community that counts but the size of its heart and commitment. Judaism is not concerned with the worship of numbers but with the numbers who worship. I have enjoyed the past three years of my ministry in your midst and I am deeply grateful for the warmth and hospitality I have been shown by so many.



In particular I would like to pay tribute to my President who is an unique Jew and a wonderful human being. His dedication spiritually and materially to the congregation is unrivalled. Likewise I would like to pay tribute to the elders of the congregation with whom I pray and study everyday. They make my life here meaningful.

At the age of one hundred years I can only repeat the traditional Jewish blessing "*Biz a hundred und zwanzig*". ☆

A message from

Alan D Feigenbaum

President of the Bulwayo Hebrew Congregation

In 1894, the same year Bulwayo was declared a city, there were enough men for a *minyan* — men of vision and foresight who formed the Bulwayo Hebrew Congregation. Their way of life at that time must have been very difficult. It is hard to imagine what little infrastructure there was then. Many of those men came without their families and, in most cases, were virtually penniless.

Nevertheless they had courage and, on August 14, just before *Rosh Hashanah*, they came together. Today we have to give thanks to those far-sighted gentlemen. I feel sure that they could never in their wildest dreams have thought that it was possible for their endeavours to result in the beautiful *shul* and buildings that go with it and the institutions that revolve around the *shul* — such as Carmel School, the nursery school, Savyon Lodge and the many societies that our congregants have formed over their years.

It would have been difficult for them to foresee that our congregation would have grown to approximately 4,000 people in its heyday. Our community probably grew because of the *shul* that was founded.

Many of those immigrants from Europe had grown up in the *shtetel*. They were used to holding services on a regular basis and

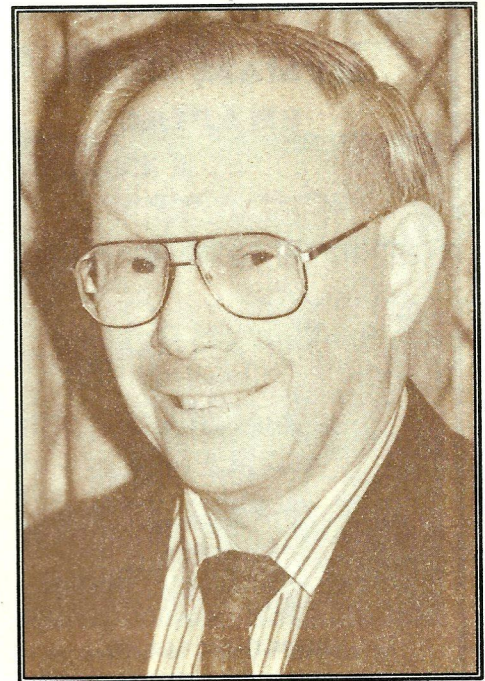
knew no other way of life. I hope that we, in 1994, will prove that we are people who believe in keeping our congregation going and, obviously, having a Rabbi to look after our religious affairs.

We unfortunately have very few members together with the probability that our numbers will decline further in the not too distant future. Nevertheless I am convinced that with goodwill and understanding from those of us who remain in Bulwayo, we will be able to fund a Rabbi and maintain our *shul*.

We have had, from time to time, some outstanding Rabbonim and Chazonim and some great men in our community who have held high positions in this country. Many of us will remember our first minister, Rev Cohen, who came from England. He was a friend of Jew and non-Jew who left his mark on this community.

Our learned and knowledgeable Rabbi, Ben Isaacson, with the help of a small, dedicated group of congregants, is able to maintain a morning and evening *minyan* which we hope he will continue to do for many years.

I believe that we can be proud of our history and I certainly hope and pray that



we will maintain our facilities into the next century. Perhaps with the new world situation and peace in Israel, our community will not diminish. We must be positive and have courage. Our forefathers would not have come together without faith. ☆

A message from

Clr Joshua T Malinga

Mayor of Bulwayo

Although the City of Bulwayo celebrated its 100th Anniversary in May/June this year, the year 1994 remains one of much significance and to us, the people of Bulwayo, it is time to reflect on the present and past achievements of the citizens of this fair city.

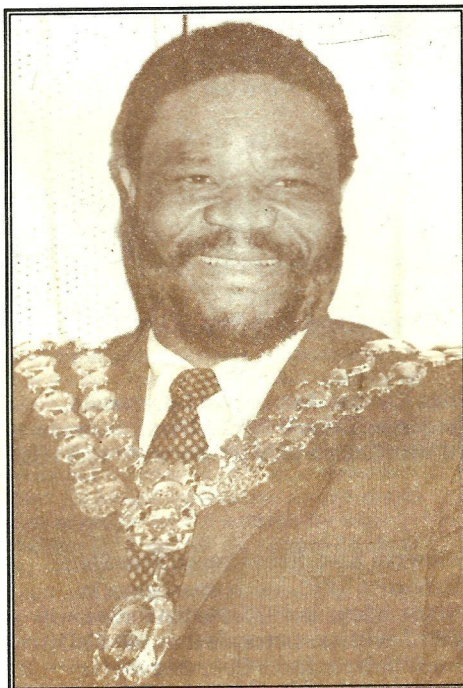
From 1894, Bulwayo has been home to a cross-section of races and communities and to date we have achieved so much through the efforts of the diverse social and cultural groups which have worked together in building this city.

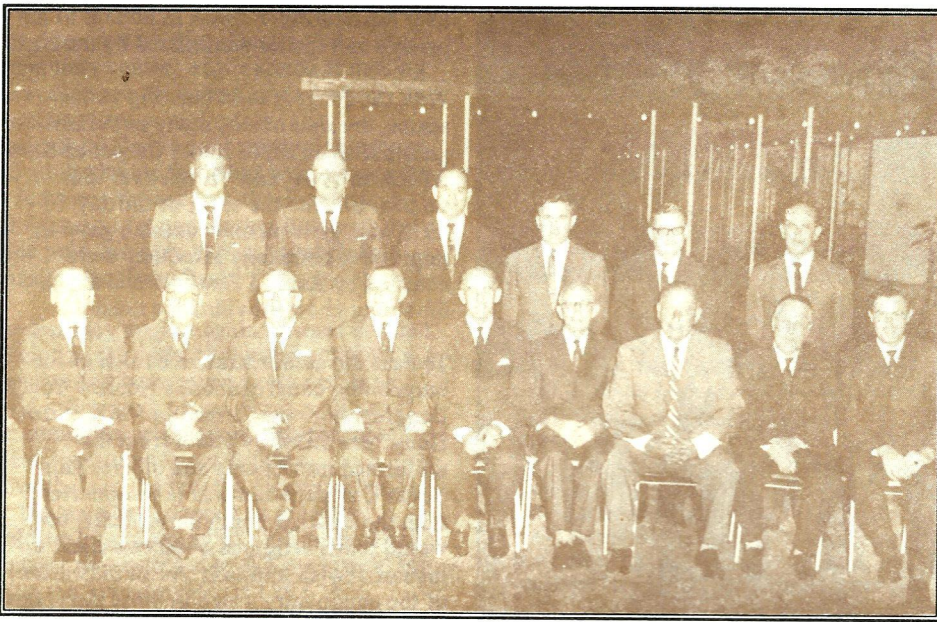
The Jewish community is one such group and has consistently recognised the spirit of

co-operation that has always existed within the various sectors of this city.

The Jewish community has taken advantage of this spirit and used it to ensure a secure future for our children. They have always been on the forefront of charitable endeavours, seeing to the needs of others.

On behalf of the residents of Bulwayo, I take great pleasure in congratulating the Bulwayo Hebrew Congregation on its 100th Anniversary and take pride in sharing your sense of achievement. ☆





Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, executive and committee 1963. (Seated from left): M Abrahamson, C I Jacobs, S Rabinovitz, H Weinstock, S Jossel (pres), A Kaplan (treasurer), W Fredman, Rev Yesorsky, Cantor A Hainovitz. (Standing): E Shay, C Swiel, D Kaye, A Levin, H Orkin, B Levin.



Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation committee 1994. (Back from left): Eddie Bloomhill, Hylton Solomon, Steven Feigenbaum. (Middle) Brian Sher, Harry Schmeizer, Ronny Zlattner, Colin Gordon, Raphael Chitrin, Jack Brenner. (Front): Dave Broomberg (treasurer), Walter Heilbron, Alan Feigenbaum (pres), Max Gordon (vice pres), Sonia Orkin. (Absent): Freddy Reiff (sec), Jurick Goldwasser, Tony Wiesenbacher, Kevin Baron, Neil Linde.



Bat Mitzvot 1955. (From left): Miriam Bina, Dorothy Lowenstein, Judy Hurwitz, Rev Yesorsky, Rhoda Keet, Esther Lederer.

Jewish Fighter

On the tablets of the Shangani Patrol Memorial in the Matopos Hills, there is the figure of one Jew. **Frank Leon Vogel** took part in the Matabele Wars and was killed at Shangani with Alan Wilson and his men. He was the son of a famous family who came to Africa to establish a new Northern Colony.

His father Sir Julius Vogel was Australian Premier in 1887. After school in England, Frank developed a desire for adventure. Cecil John Rhodes, a family friend, offered him a job with the BSA Company to "expand the Empire to the vacant North". At 20-years, Frank accepted.

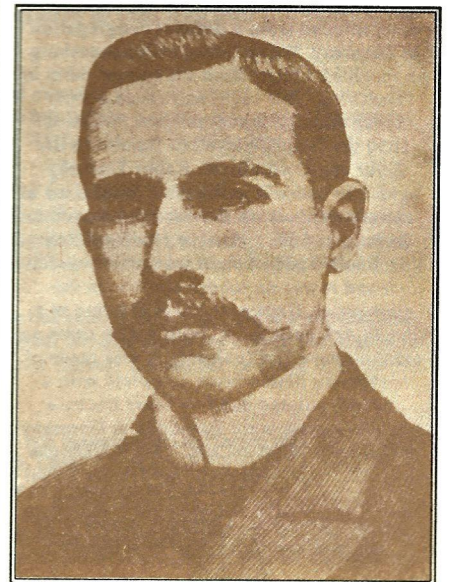
"The Occupation Column" was in the process of taking over King Lobengula's lands. Vogel heard about the road cutting and hostile impis, so he applied to join the troop of the Mashonaland Mounted Police. Dr Jameson offered him a position as surveyor general. Before 1892 expired Vogel was promoted to Acting Assistant Secretary to the Administrator. Six months later the whole of Matabeleland flamed into revolt.

Blacks friendly to whites were attacked, farmers killed, settlements burnt. King Lobengula called his impis to war. Vogel volunteered for Troop B of the Salisbury Horse, under Captain Henry John Borrow. Vogel has another place in the story, because he was among the first men who ever worked a Maxim gun in warfare.

Trekking alone through a hostile country, Vogel caught up with his unit at Fort Charter. On the route he found the body of Captain Owen Williams, chief of the Salisbury Scouts, who had lost his way. He had been trapped by the enemy.

Vogel was resting in Bulawayo when the order came to chase Lobengula himself. On November 14 he re-enlisted under Major Forbes. They rode across the Matopos toward the west. There Vogel and 35 others were told to report to Major Allan Wilson. It was a magnificent bungle.

The impetuous Major pressed too far after the chief and the Shangani River came down in flood and cut off their retreat. The Matabele swooped down killing them to a man.





Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation Committee, 1932. (Standing from left): L A Rubenstein (asst hon sec), Jack Ellenbogen, M Abrahamson, M King, C I Jacobs, M Baron, J Ginsberg (hon auditor). (Sitting): O Kaufman, E Basch, (trustee), P D Landau (vice pres), D A Blumberg (pres), S S Grossberg (hon treasurer), H B Ellenbogen, C M Harris (hon sec).

massive wave of emigration, particularly of the community's youth. Many left because they did not agree with Smith's politics, others feared for their sons' lives in the Rhodesian Army and others felt they were economic prisoners. Some did remain as they either supported the Government of the day or felt they could better produce change from within.

In 1973 Mr Abrahamson commented on the drain of Jewish youngsters: "We see the elimination of almost an entire generation of our young men and women to study in South Africa and overseas and save for a few, they do not return. We miss them, not only as parents and family, but as a community."

With the collapse of the white minority rule in 1980, a new chapter began with the declaration of independence in Zimbabwe. Despite several isolated incidences of anti-semitic and anti-Zionist activity, the community in Bulawayo has had a peaceful way of life.

Today Jews in Bulawayo only number some 300, about the same population that was found in 1901, and yet they remain a voice within the community. Their numbers are growing — albeit slowly — but this small population still makes a valuable contribution to the people of Bulawayo. The diverse organisations established over the years continue to operate efficiently and effectively. The Union of Jewish Women is a powerful national charity and it feeds and cares for thousands under the Makhaza project. Jewish bursaries and scholarships are still available, Carmel thrives with its multi-racial, multi-cultural policies, and Jewish businesses are still a driving force behind the national economy.

As in 1894, when Jews first made their contribution to a dusty village called Bulawayo, so today they continue the tradition. Jews have chosen to stand up and be counted among the citizens of this city. ✪

Maurice Wagner (1908-1981)

From Poland and educated in the UK at University College, King's College, Jewish education at *Etz Chaim Yeshivah* and Jews' College, London. MA in Classics and teacher's diploma, Greek Prizeman, Hollier Greek Scholar. In 1942 joined Royal Signals of British Army, as an instructor with the Educational Corps, then moved to the Chaplain's Dept. He was the senior Jewish Chaplain to British Army of the Rhine. He was in Jewish education and culture for 20 years. Headmaster of Clapton Talmud Torah, part time lecturer in Classics at Jews' College, from 1948 until his arrival in Rhodesia in 1951, he was headmaster of Avigdor School London. He was general secretary of the United Jewish Educational and Cultural Organisation. In 1951 he was asked by CA Board to be general secretary, a position he held for 28 years. He was steeped in Jewish learning. He served on Cazo, the Congregation, Chovevei Zion, Savvon, and Carmel School.



Spot the difference. Chairman of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation Centennial Committee. Colin Gordon, and son? 98

References

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Notes:



