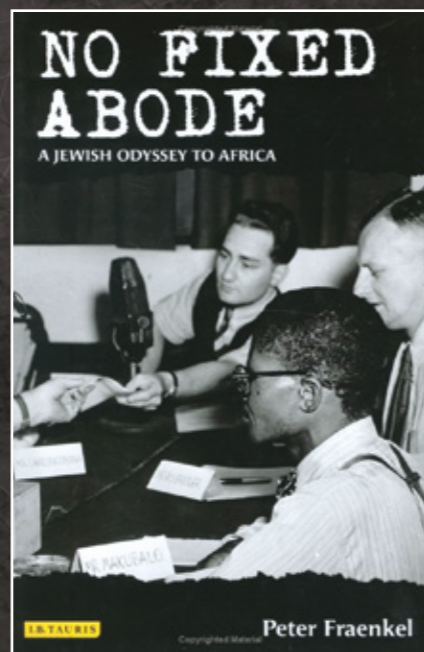


The Zambian Jewish Community

Zambia's Jewish community peaked in the two decades between the end of the Second World War and independence. New immigrants arrived, new businesses were established, and synagogues were built. This renewed expansion of Zambia's Jewish community in the late 1940s was initiated by the post-war copper boom which attracted many new Jewish immigrants particularly from the United Kingdom and South Africa. With this development, and through the initiative of Feivel Metzger, a Polish Jewish refugee who became a community leader, new synagogues were completed in Ndola, Kitwe, Luanshya, and Mufulira in 1948.

Many large businesses were developed during this period. In Livingstone, the Susman Brothers & Wulfohn group expanded their enterprise. The Gersh brothers owned and extended African Commercial Holdings in Kitwe, while Max Barnett and Len Pinshow managed Copperfields Cold Storage and Werners. David Shapiro made bricks for the new town of Lusaka, later founding a successful milling company there, and Abe Galaun established Lusaka Cold Storage. Among smaller, but well-known businesses in Lusaka were Goodman 'Goody' Glasser's department store, George 'Lippy' Lipschild's stationery shop, Hilda Caminer's dress shop, and the Mendelsohn's clothing store. At times, business in the city centre virtually would come to a standstill on the Jewish High Festivals because all the Jewish-owned shops were closed.

There were many members of the Zambian Jewish community who distinguished themselves both in Zambia and further afield in the years leading up to and following Zambian independence.



Peter Fraenkel



Walter Dobkins



Cynthia Zukas

Walter (Wally) Dobkins had a successful career as an architect in Zambia and Australia. The son of Moss and Fay Dobkins, he was born at Nchanga in 1937, obtained a degree in Architecture at the University of Cape Town, and after postgraduate studies at the University of Edinburgh, returned to Zambia in 1968 to work for the National Housing Authority. Later he went into private practice; one of his major contributions to Zambia was Lusaka's remarkable Meridien Bank building in Cairo Road.

Cynthia Zukas, the wife of Simon, was an important Zambian artist. She also promoted art through The Lechwe Trust, for which work she was awarded an MBE in 2012 by Queen Elizabeth for her services to the arts and culture in Zambia.

Peter Fraenkel had a distinguished career as a broadcaster in Northern Rhodesia, Malawi, and also in the United Kingdom. He left a vivid account of his experience of broadcasting in the early years of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in his book *Wayeleshi* (1959). He also helped to build what was thought to be the largest collection of African music on the continent.