Jewish Cemeteries in Tambia

Zambia's first Jewish cemetery was laid out in 1905 as a section of the main cemetery in the new town of Livingstone. The earliest grave in it is that of Abe Gelman, a brick-maker who died on 22 July of that year. The Jewish section of the cemetery remained in use as recently as 1984. It was restored through the initiative of Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft of the African Jewish Congress in the late 1990s.

At Lusaka, which replaced Livingstone as capital of Zambia in 1935, there are Jewish graves at a number of sites. The earliest, including that of Uri Rabinowitz, are at the old cemetery located off Independence Avenue. Jewish graves, including those of members of the Glasser family and of Dr Manning, are also located in the Aylmer May cemetery in Northmead, which was closed in 1957. The Council for Zambia Jewry, with representatives of other faiths, has been involved in the restoration of this cemetery and of the associated Murray Memorial Chapel since 1999.

Since the closure of the Aylmer May cemetery, a number of burials have taken place in the Jewish section at Lusaka's large Leopard's Hill cemetery. A noted Jewish grave outside of these cemeteries is that of Aaron Barnett Diamond, pioneer trader to Angola and the Congo, who died in 1916 and was buried on his farm, Diamondale, east of Lusaka.

There are also Jewish cemeteries at Ndola, Kitwe and Mufulira.

Jewish connections to Livingstone date back to the town's founding in 1905. The Livingstone Hebrew Congregation, the then Northern Rhodesia's first Jewish organisation, was formed in 1910 and the first synagogue consecrated on 8 July 1928 / 20 Tammuz 5688. The synagogue. communal hall and rabbi's house were located on HIGHWAY. today LIKUTE WAY. In 1947, the community numbered over 100 souls, and was active in the religious, Zionist and social fields. Numbers declined steadily thereafter, resulting in the eventual cessation of organised communal life by the end of the 1960s. The last Jewish burial took place on 19 January 1970.

In 1997 the Council for Zambia Jewry, in partnership with the African Jewish Congress, carried out an extensive renovations project in this cemetery to maintain and preserve the final resting places of the Jews of Livingstone.

"Awake and sing, you that dwell in the dust; for your dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out its dead" (Isaiah 26:19)

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Plaque detailing a brief history of Jewish life in Northern Rhodesia / Zambia erected in the Livingstone Jewish Cemetery - 2016

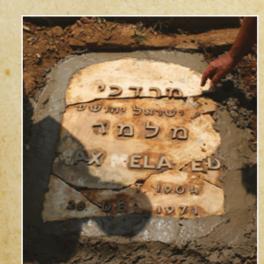


Gravestone of Abe Gelman





Gerald Kollenberg visiting the grave of his uncle David Kollenberg in Kitwe, 2006



View of the restored Livingstone Jewish Cemetery



Restoration process of the Max Melamed grave stone in Kitwe, 2006