

The Gateway Jewish Museum Project

CHRONICLES OF HARDSHIP AND HOPE

The Gateway Jewish Museum in Livingstone was opened in 2013. The museum tells the story of the Jews who settled in and around Livingstone, as well as in other major Zambian towns, and reflects on the part they played in the economic, cultural and political development of Northern Rhodesia/Zambia.

Situated within the precinct of the Railway Museum of Zambia, the Gateway Jewish Museum is perfectly positioned to describe the part the Jewish community played in the story of the Line of Rail and beyond. A vehicle for education, information and dialogue, it provides a dynamic forum for recognizing the past and looking to the future, bearing witness to the pioneering spirit of the immigrant Jewish community. Here visitors experience the reality of life on the African frontier and the Line of Rail, as well as exploring the origins of the settlers in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. The Gateway Jewish Museum honours and celebrates the contribution of the Jewish community in Zambia and highlights the integral position of Livingstone over a hundred years as the gateway to Zambia and to the interior of central Africa for immigrant Jews.



Exhibition inside the museum



Sefer Torah

A Torah Scroll is the holiest item within Judaism, made up of the five books of Moses. There are 304,805 letters in a Torah Scroll with each page having 42 lines. The Torah Scroll must be written by a specially trained pious scribe called a sofer. Each letter is hand written and individually formed with a quill and specially prepared ink.

The Torah used today in synagogues around the world is written exactly the same way the Torah was written the very first time by Moses 3300 years ago. The Torah is made of many sheets of parchment that are sewn together to make one very long scroll. The Torah is read at least four times a week in synagogues around the world.

This Torah was from the Luanshya Hebrew Congregation and donated by Dennis & Maureen Figov to the Gateway Jewish Museum.

Established under the auspices of the Council for Zambian Jewry (CFZJ) the Museum was in large part made possible by a bequest from the late David Susman, scion of a distinguished pioneering Jewish family in Zambia. Although he moved to South Africa, where he became chairman of Woolworths, his family's links with Livingstone go back to the establishment of the town and continued for well over a century; their history is documented in this Museum. The Museum was completed through further generous support from the CFZJ, under the leadership of Michael Galaun, Simon Zukas, and Saul Radunski, in consultation with Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, CEO of the African Jewish Congress.

Much of the information for the Museum and for this book was drawn from the book *Zion in Africa: The Jews of Zambia*, by Hugh MacMillan and Frank Shapiro (I B Tauris, in association with the Council for Zambia Jewry). The first edition appeared in 1999, and a revised new edition in March 2017.



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