

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Francine@travelharmony.com Tel: [703-264-0222](tel:703-264-0222) or [800-622-3533](tel:800-622-3533)

PRESS RELEASE

Australia-New Zealand Shomer Shabbat Tour

Joy Katzen-Guthrie, a Jewish Historian, and **Francine S. Beifeld**, Premier Aussie Specialist and Certified New Zealand Expert, have teamed up to put together “**CHAI**” – *an 18 day “Discovery of Indigenous and Jewish Experience Down Under.”*

Accompanied by Scholar in Residence Joy Katzen-Guthrie, plus local tour guides, a small group of travelers will be departing from Los Angeles on November 4 for an 18 day program. Their experience will include Kabbalat Shabbat services, lectures and resources on the history of Jewish Australia and New Zealand. Participants will visit Auckland, Rotorua, Melbourne and Sydney on this fully escorted tour.

Australia’s Jewish history began with a small number of first convict settlers to Australia in 1788. According to Katzen-Guthrie, “Some had been sent to Australia for trivial crimes, while others had been cast out of Europe because of their faith. Less than 30 years later, the first free Jewish settlers began to arrive, with Sydney becoming home to the first permanent congregation in 1837. Several waves of Jews arrived after, first with the discovery of gold in the 1850s, later with the increase of Eastern European persecution in the 1890s through 1911, and in a third wave of refugees of the Holocaust. Today’s Jewish Australian population is extensive and diverse, with a Jewish settlers from virtually every continent and area of Europe, and thriving communities in every major city as well as in remote regions.”

“Jewish traders arrived in New Zealand,” according to Katzen-Guthrie, “by the 1820s, with Wellington and Auckland established as early Jewish communities. There were a number of Jewish shareholders in the New Zealand Company (which was set up in London, England to settle the country), including its renowned Director, Sir Isaac Lyon Goldsmid, the first Jew honored with knighthood and Britain’s first Jewish Baronet, whose efforts led to the granting of basic civil and political rights to Jews in England.”

Katzen-Guthrie is an educator, keynote speaker and experienced Jewish Heritage Tour Leader. You can read about this tour on her website at:
<http://www.joyfulnoise.net/tours/australia4.html>.

Beifeld, President of Travel Harmony has been in the travel business for more than 30 years. Her specialty is Australia and New Zealand. For more information, to make a reservation or to receive a copy of this tour, call 800-622-3533 or email francine@travelharmony.com. You can learn more about Travel Harmony at www.travelharmony.com.

###