

5786

SHANA
TOVA
2025

>/SHANA TOVA AND A SAFE NEW YEAR/>



REPORTSTAR

TECHNOLOGIES

www.reportstar.net

|

>/CYBER SECURITY SPECIALISTS/>

4 Committee Members

6 -7 Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

Why community matters more than ever

8 Rabbi Zusman Y Uzvolk

We move forward and we do so with joy

10 Rebbetzin Laia Uzvolk

Am I living according to Hashem's word?

12 Rabbi Rodney Richard

Our shul is more than a location

14 Rebbetzin Wendy Richard

How did I grow this year?

15 Kumzitz Photos

16 Chairman Matthew Lewis

Not spectators - partners in building

17 Purim

18 Outgoing Chairman Peter Berman

19 Father and Son Davening Breakfast

20 Rabbi Seeff

A Shana Tova Umetukah

22 Calendar Tishrei 5786

25 Rabbi Yossi Sher

Honesty in business

26 Of Signs And Wonders

27 The Joining of Two Souls

28 Judging People Favourably

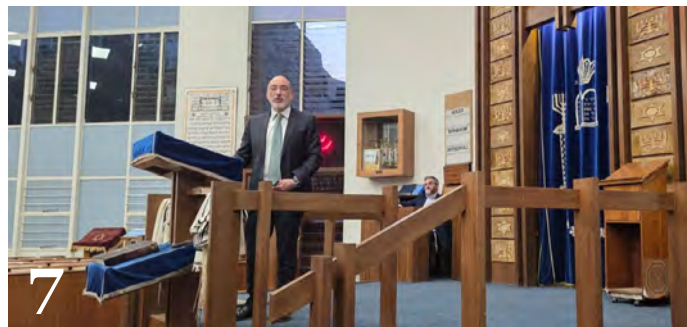
30 To Be Or Not To Be

31 Lag Ba Omer

32 Messages From The Community

34 Ladies Guild And Recipes

36 The Miracle on Dan Bus No 4



38 The Rosh Hashana Mindset

39 The VP Shul Bat Mitzvah Program

40 Celebrations & Achievements

42 KDVP-Where Everybody Knows Your Name

43 Yahrzeit List



With Thanks

Front cover: Artwork by Jacqui Bernstein

Design and Layout : Aviva Grayman

Children's Artworks: courtesy Daniela & Leah Hollander



COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Back row: Rabbi Richard, Matthew Lewis, Jolene Goldberg, Mark Taitz, Rabbi Uzvolk

Front row: Joanne Goldberg, Lorien Gimpel, Sue Fleishman, Hester Hollander

Absent: Mark Lachman, Michael Epstein, Adrienne Skikna

Writing the Next Chapter

Victory Park Shul began as more than a building, it was a dream, planted by our founders with hope and heart in Johannesburg's North-West. Today, their legacy lives on in our prayers, traditions, and shared moments. With KDVP School closing, we're not mourning the past, we're stepping into the future as builders of community and faith.

Now is a time for action. Jewish life here isn't fading, it's evolving. Together, we choose hope, connection, and purpose. Our Shul is more than brick, it's all of us. Everyone is welcome. Everyone belongs. Join Us! Whether you're a longtime member or just arriving, there's a place for you. Our founders built for us. Now it's our turn to build for those still to come.

The Victory Park Shul committee wishes our wonderful community a sweet and good new year filled with countless blessings of peace, happiness and good health.

2025



 Discovery

Shana Tova

Wishing all our Jewish clients a sweet and healthy New Year.

Discovery is an authorised financial services provider.



www.discovery.co.za



[@Discovery_SA](https://twitter.com/Discovery_SA)



[discoverysouthafrica](https://www.facebook.com/discoverysouthafrica)



[Discovery_SA](https://www.instagram.com/Discovery_SA)



[youtube/DiscoverySA](https://www.youtube.com/DiscoverySA)



COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE OF VICTORY PARK SHUL

CHIEF RABBI WARREN GOLDSTEIN

Dear Victory Park Shul Members,

I know that these past few weeks, since the announcement of the pending closure of King David Victory Park, have been deeply challenging. For many, this has brought a sense of uncertainty about the future – not only for the school, but for the shul and the wider Victory Park Jewish community.

I want to affirm my unwavering commitment to the future of the shul and pledge my ongoing support. Victory Park Shul must continue to thrive well into the future, beyond the closure of the school.

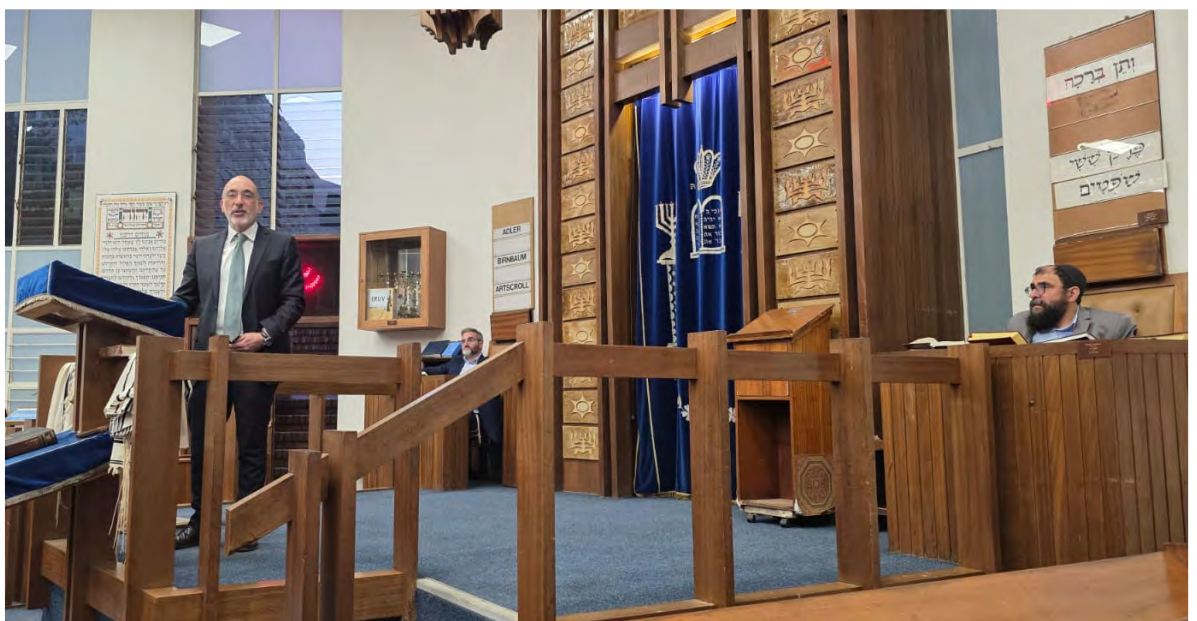
As you know, a few weeks ago I met with the committee and also with many of you at the open forum community meeting. I heard your concerns, and I want you to know that this is something we will work on together, going

forward. Every shul is precious, and Victory Park Shul, in particular, has a long and important history in our community.

It is a beacon of Torah on the western side of Johannesburg – like the western lamp of the menorah in the Mishkan, a light that illuminated not only its own space but radiated far beyond. So too, the shul is a sanctuary of relationships, of love, of connection, of mitzvahs, and good deeds. It shines light into the lives of each congregant through your attendance at services and shiurim, through acts of chesed, and it brings that light to the wider

community as well, as a centre of Torah, prayer, and community.

These are indeed challenging times. But I have full confidence. You have a rich history and heritage. You are blessed with two outstanding rabbinic couples whose dedication, energy, optimism, and compassion are an incredible asset to this community. You are supported by an exceptional committee, led by Matthew Lewis, and by the many committed members who work tirelessly on behalf of the shul. I am working closely with your rabbis and committee, as the shul navigates its way to a new future.



This Rosh Hashana is a time for us to come together in unity – to strengthen one another and to renew our shared commitment to the future. Together, these are the foundations on which we will build, please G-d. Let us work together to ensure Victory Park Shul continues to grow, and to go from strength to strength.

May Hashem inscribe and seal us all for a good and sweet new year.

With warmest regards and blessings,

Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein



MAZELTOV TO SHNAY UZVOLK ON OBTAINING HIS SMICHA - RABBI SHNAY UZVOLK!





RABBI ZUSMAN Y UZVOLK

OUR PEOPLE HAVE NEVER FEARED CHANGE. WE MOVE FORWARD, AND WE DO SO WITH JOY



Dear Friends,

This past year has seen momentous events on the world stage, yet our own community has faced challenges of its own—most poignantly, the announcement of the imminent closure of King David Victory Park School. Considering this, I want to shift the focus of this Rosh Hashana article.

The Rosh Hashana Shul magazine traditionally centres on the themes of, well, Rosh Hashana, yet this year, I'd like to extend our gaze to the conclusion of Tishrei, to Sukkot and Simchat Torah.

Sukkot carries a profound message. By definition, a Sukkah is a temporary structure. It reminds us that we are travellers in this world. Judaism has endured centuries of exile—our people have often been uprooted and forced to relocate. Here at Victory Park, while the school is moving, we must remember: our people have never feared change. We move forward, and we do so with joy.

There's another reason I want to focus on Sukkot. You see, the spirit of Elul and Rosh Hashana can feel heavy. The daily blowing of the Shofar is the call for introspection and serious self-reflection. Rosh

Hashana itself is largely spent in Shul, the Day of Judgment when all of creation passes before G-d.

Yom Kippur is spiritually charged and, yes, we're meant to reach a point where food holds no attraction to us, the angelic beings. But, if that's the case, then why is there such a rush to leave Shul after Ne'illah?

After that comes Sukkot. Sukkot is about enjoying life—even if that enjoyment happens in a temporary hut. Simply being in the Sukkah is a Mitzvah. Sit with a cup of coffee in the Sukkah and you are fulfilling a commandment. Its walls symbolize G-d's embrace. And at the conclusion of Sukkot, Simchat Torah arrives: a day of dancing, singing, and unrestrained joy. The order of the day is Simcha—pure happiness.

So yes, I am trying to “sell” Sukkot! I want to encourage you to build a kosher Sukkah. I want to encourage you to consider acquiring a Lulav set. Come to Shul for Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Dance, sing and celebrate. Judaism is not only about the solemnity of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur; it is also about life, joy, and community. Come and experience the lighter, more celebratory side of our rich tradition. Embrace the fun of Juda-

ism. As they say: “Don't worry—just be Jewish!”

Back to my opening paragraph, one of the reasons that the Chupa, the symbol of the Jewish home, is a flimsy structure that requires “pole holders” is to drive home the message that a solid Jewish home is NOT dependant on solid walls.

The physical cup can break but the marriage endures. At the time of writing this article it is not clear to anyone, how or where our community will be housed, however, our community is strong even if the walls of our physical Shul do change.

I know that there is a lot of pain and upset regarding the closure of King David Victory Park school. KDVP has shaped the lives of so, so many. There are so many fond memories attached to the history of this campus. I think that the call of the hour is to channel these feelings into more participation, more involvement, more community and more Yiddishkeit

With blessings for a joyful Tishrei, Don't worry be Jewish!

Wishing us all a Ketivah Vechattima Tova leshana Tova Umetukka.

Rabbi Uzvolk



PRIMEWORKS

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE OUTSOURCED IT PARTNER

- Cyber Security
- It Support
- Microsoft 365
- Data Backup

011 887 3900 WWW.PRIMEWORKS.CO.ZA

**"Wishing all of the Victory Park Community
a Shanah Tovah uMetukah!"**



CITYGROUP

**COMPLETE
PROPERTY
SOLUTIONS**

SALES, LEASING,
MANAGEMENT

PEST CONTROL AND
CLEANING

SPECIALISED
SECURITY SERVICES


MAINTENANCE AND
CONSTRUCTION






011 483 3930 WWW.CITYNET.CO.ZA

**LEWIS ATTORNEYS
WISHES THE COMMUNITY
A SWEET, HAPPY
AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR**

**ATLAS STUDIOS
TV + DAYLIGHT STUDIOS**

VISIT
WWW.ATLASSTUDIOS.CO.ZA
OR CONTACT US ON
060 773 0277 / 011 482 7111



ATLAS STUDIOS



AM I LIVING ACCORDING TO HASHEM'S WORD?

REBBETZIN LAIA UZVOLK

BH

This has been a very full year. In some ways, it seems like yesterday that Emmarentia joined us, in other ways, it feels like we've always been together. . BH, we are so grateful to be one big strong community.

As this tumultuous year comes to a close, we as a community have been challenged with the extra need to resolve to be positive, strong and to choose to take an active role in participating in our community.

I wanted to find some practical tips for us and I looked into our Guide, The Torah.

When recounting our 42 journeys in the Desert, the Torah says „וַיִּכְתֹּב מֹשֶׁה אֶת־מוֹצְאֵיהֶם לְמַסְעֵיהֶם „עַל פִּי ה' Moses recorded their starting points for their journeys according to the word of Hashem” (Deuteronomy 33,2)

We travelled through the Sinai Desert, totally unaware of when or where we were going next. And we always got there. Why? Because we went “Al Pi” Hashem “according to the word of Hashem”. What He requested we did. We did it His way.

Further on in Deuteronomy 12,4 Hashem tells us that when we enter Eretz Yisroel we must bring sacrifices ONLY in the place that He chooses. Not in any location...

The Torah does not name Yerushalayim. It just says “The place which the L-rd your G-d shall choose”.

Way back at the beginning, when Hashem tells Avraham to leave his home He doesn't specify the destination either.

וּמִמּוֹלֶדֶתְךָ וּמִבֵּית אֲבִיךָ אֶל־הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר אֶרְאֶה לְךָ לְךָ מֵאִרְצָךְ

“Go from your land, from your birthplace, and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you.”

Why?

We are a People who have never known what's next, where we are going to be.

We do know that we are Hashem's Chosen People- עם סְגוּלָה, His first born son - בְּנֵי בְכוּרָה אֶתָּה.

We are assured that if we choose to hand over to Him. If we elect to have Emunah -faith and Bitachon - trust

in Him, and to do it His way...’Al Pi Hashem -according to the Word of Hashem ‘, then we will eventually arrive!

All over the world we are constantly being reminded that we are Jews. And we are proudly rising to the occasion and shouting out that yes we are Jewish!

Perhaps our New Year's resolutions need to include ensuring that we live more Jewish!

‘Am I living according to Hashem's Word?’ Am I being a true Jew? Am I choosing to do it His way?’

This is the choice I need to make if I want to reach the destination. I need to relinquish the reigns and trust in Hashem and do it His way.

on January 1, 2000, the NY Times ran a Millennium edition. It was a special issue that featured three front pages. One had the news from January 1, 1900. The second was the actual news of the day, January 1, 2000. And then they had a third front page, projecting future events of January 1, 2100. This fictional page included things like a welcome to the fifty-first state: Cuba, a discussion on whether robots should be allowed to vote, etc...



My husband and family join me in wishing each and all a Ketiva Vechatima Tova - LShana Tova Umetuka! May you be inscribed and sealed for all that's ONLY revealed, sweet good on every level!

Looking forward to praying and growing with you PG. And may we be doing that, *this year*, in the Rebuilt Jerusalem of Messianic Times!

Love,
Laia

And there was one more thing. Down on the bottom of the Year 2100 front page, were the candle lighting time in New York for January 1, 2100. Nobody paid for it, it was a fictional ad put in there by the NYT!

Let's choose one thing that we are going to try do His way, at least for these Ten Days of Repentance. And let it snowball.

When asked about it, the publisher (an Irish-Catholic) commented, "We don't know what will happen in the year 2100. It is impossible to predict the future. But of one thing you can be certain. That in the year 2100, Jewish women will be lighting Shabbos Candles.

Yes, Hashem didn't give Avraham the destination. And He never specified Jerusalem for our sacrifices. We Jews never know what's next.

However, it is certain that whenever it is, wherever we will be, there *will* be Candle Lighting! There will be Jews choosing to live Jewish 'according to His Word'! The question is, 'Do I want to be one of them? Do I want my children and my grandchildren to be Jews? To be and live Jewish?'

I do. I hope you join me.

The way to get there is to baby step.



**WIZARD
MIDAS**

TREAT YOUR POCKET RIGHT!

**Special offers & savings!
Best quality & price!**

**Car battery specialists
& stockists of spares and
accessories for all makes of cars**



011-476-6017
wizardmidas@clickonline.co.za
 Corner Beyers Naude &
 Mimosa Road,
 Blackheath



OUR SHUL IS MORE THAN A LOCATION

RABBI RODNEY RICHARD

Dear Friends,

Baruch Hashem, our Shul has enjoyed a remarkable year, filled with events, shiurim, and activities that have enriched our community life. The joy and ruach of our Purim celebration reminded us of the words from Megillat Esther, “LaYehudim hayta orah v’simcha – The Jews had light and joy.” Our Lag BaOmer festivities were equally uplifting, with a turnout that exceeded all expectations and a spirit of unity that lingered long after the bonfire had faded.

This past year also marked wonderful growth in our youth programming. Our monthly Youth Minyan has become a highlight, and our Pizza and Parsha continues to spark lively and thought-provoking discussion. Our recent youth trivia night and father-and-son davening were resounding successes. These moments are just the beginning. There is so much more we can achieve. I encourage all our youth to take part, bring their friends, and make these initiatives their own.

A special thank you goes to my daughter Shay and to all the children’s service takers, whose warmth, patience, and enthusiasm make our youngest members feel at home in Shul.

Throughout the year, whether during a joyful Shabbat service, a heartfelt Yizkor, a spirited Hallel, or a solemn Yom Tov Mussaf, I am deeply honoured to lead our tefillot as Chazzan. This is a privilege I treasure, and, over the Yamim Noraim, it is a role that fills me with awe and humility.

This year, I am thrilled that Adam Golding will once again be conducting the choir. Adam brings not only musical excellence, but a deep spiritual sensitivity to every note and every pause. My heartfelt thanks go to him and every chorister for their dedication, countless hours of rehearsal, and unwavering commitment to elevating our tefillot.

I write these words in the shadow of the recent news about the closure of King David Victory Park schools. The announcement has left us all feeling sad and vulnerable. Yet, let us remember that while King David Victory Park is closing, Victory Park Shul is not.

Our Shul is more than a location. We are the relationships we build, the Torah we learn, the mitzvot we perform, and the prayers we raise together. Our people’s history is one of resilience -from the wilderness journeys in the book of Bamidbar to the rebuilding of Jerusalem

after the Babylonian exile. We have always adapted, endured, and thrived. Our community is and will continue to be a living reflection of that story.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, let us take to heart a message of unity, commitment, and deeper involvement. King Solomon writes in Kohelet, “Two are better than one... for if they fall, one will lift the other.” If that is true for two people, how much more so for an entire community!

When the shofar sounds in our Shul this year, let it be more than a call to personal introspection; let it also be a rallying call for communal responsibility.

Our Shul needs you - your presence, your ideas, your energy, your voice. Whether it’s joining a weekday minyan, attending a shiur, participating in an event, or generously donating your time and money, every act strengthens our bond and grows our community. If we show up, commit, and care enough, nothing can stop us.

We will continue to invest in our children and youth with meaningful events and opportunities to learn, so they feel a strong connection to Torah, Mitzvot, and Community.

They are not only the future of Victory Park Shul - but they are also its present.

My thanks go to Rabbi and Rebbetzin Uzvolk, the lay leadership of the Shul, and to each of you for your ongoing support and dedication. And, acharon acharon chaviv (whoever is most dear goes last), to my wife, Rebbetzin Wendy, and my family, thank you for your constant love and encouragement, and for everything that you contribute to the Shul.

May this year bring a strengthening of Jewish life here in Victory Park and across the globe. May our Shul always remain what it has been- a home for every Jew, a sanctuary of song and prayer, and a vibrant centre of connection, learning, and love.

May Hashem bring about the safe return of all our brothers and sisters from captivity, and, most importantly, may "He make peace upon us and all Israel".

כתיבה וחתימה טובה

Shanah Tovah,

Rabbi Rodney Richard





HOW DID I GROW THIS YEAR?



REBBETZIN WENDY RICHARD

Dear Friends,

As we prepare to greet a new year, I find myself pausing to reflect on the many moments—both quiet and momentous—that have shaped our Shul over the past twelve months.

This year brought its own set of tremendous triumphs: our fundraiser, Purim in the Wild West, Paula Slier's talk and so much more. Together, we experienced joys—simchas that lit up our Shul with dancing and singing—and sorrows, where we stood together, supporting one another with compassion and strength. In the spirit of true community, no one should walk alone.

Our learning programs continue to flourish, with so many shiurim and classes that brought depth and meaning into our lives. I've especially cherished the Women's gatherings this year - the heartfelt discussions, the shared insights, and the honest questions. Your warmth and commitment to growth have inspired me deeply.

I am especially excited about the new Batmitzvah program and the fabulous young ladies I am fortunate to teach. If this group is a peek into the next generation, we

have much to look forward to!

On a personal note, it's been an honour and a blessing to be part of your lives—celebrating milestones, sharing words of encouragement, and learning from each one of you. I don't take this privilege lightly.

To the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the committee, thank you for your guidance, enthusiasm and unwavering support. To the Ladies' Committee, your hard work is evident in every Brocha you cater. We are very spoilt each week.

I'd like to say a special thank you to the whole Uzvolk Family for embracing us so kindly during our transition to Victory Park Shul.

As we approach the Yomim Noraim, may we each take a moment to pause and ask: How did I grow this year? Who did I become? And what do I wish to bring into the coming year? Let's each take on a new Mitzvah, so that we all enter into the New Year with our scales tipped for good and for positive growth. Remember, no matter how small, every Mitzvah counts.

I recently read the following moshal (parable):

A Chassid once came to his

Rebbe feeling spiritually cold and disconnected from his fellow Jews. He had distanced himself from the community and felt he could maintain his Jewish life on his own, in solitude.

The Rebbe did not answer him with words. Instead, he led the Chassid to a warm hearth, where a large fire blazed. The Rebbe took a pair of tongs and gently removed a glowing red coal from the fire, placing it alone on the side of the hearth.

At first, the coal still glowed. But soon, without the warmth of the other coals, it dimmed, lost its light, and grew cold.

The Rebbe looked at the Chassid and said softly:

"Do you see? Alone, the soul cools. But together, in the warmth of the community, it burns with light and life."

May Hashem bless our entire community with a year of good health, peace, parnassah, and spiritual fulfillment. May our Shul continue to be a place of connection—between each other and with Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Kesivah V'Chasimah Tova,

With love and blessings,

Rebbetzen Wendy

KUMZITZ_ MUSICAL EVENINGS





“NOT SPECTATORS — PARTNERS IN BUILDING”

CHAIRMAN MATTHEW LEWIS

As I begin my tenure as Chairman, I do so with great appreciation for the solid foundations laid by the previous executive. Their dedication and vision have generated a remarkable momentum—momentum that we intend to build on as we enter this new chapter together.

Of course, there will be challenges such as the impending closure of the school campus by the South African Jewish Board of Education, which has understandably caused concern. But I see it differently. I see in it the seed of opportunity—a moment that can energize us to reimagine, refocus, and re-invest in what truly defines us: our kehillah.

At a time when many Jewish communities across South Africa are shrinking, Victory Park is bucking the trend. We are active. We are present. We are alive. **With three minyanim a day, seven days a week**, and a calendar full of shiurim, events, youth activities, social opportunities, and initiatives—there is something here for everyone. Everyone can find “their thing.”

But for a community to truly thrive, attendance alone is not enough. **Participation is the key.**

Some may see the shul committee as the ones “putting on the show,” with

the rest of the community in the audience, applauding (or not) from the seats. But that’s not how a real community works. At Victory Park, **everyone is part of the production.** Some have big roles, some smaller ones, but every role matters. Every voice is part of the harmony. Every action helps carry the weight.

You don’t need to wait for an invitation. Step forward. Get involved. Host. Volunteer. Learn. Daven. Greet a new face. Sponsor a brocha. Help us make this place shine from the inside out.

As Chairman, I don’t see my role as being the lead actor. My role is to

support the cast, to help guide the production behind the scenes. And the cast is you—the members of this remarkable community.

So, let’s move into 5786 with energy, with optimism, and with a shared sense of ownership. Let’s turn opportunity into growth, uncertainty into unity, and potential into action.

Together, we will continue to build a community that is not only strong—but one that shines.

Shana Tova U’Metuka,

Matthew Lewis

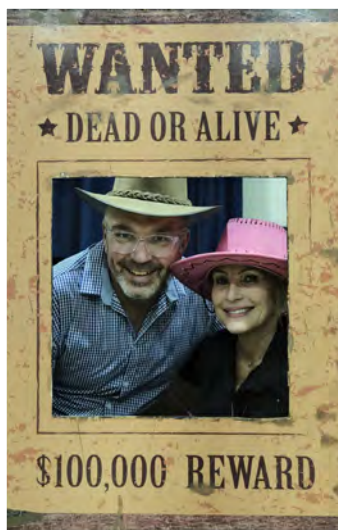
For All Your Foil and Clingwrap Requirements

Contact Ingrid Sternberg 083 444 1340
OR Trevor Sternberg 082 342 7963

440 mm x 70 metre
HEAVY DUTY FOIL

hairfoil
2 Rolls 100 mm x 70 m

PURIM PHOTOS 2025_PART 1





OUTGOING CHAIRMAN PETER BERMAN

OUTGOING CHAIRMAN PETER BERMAN

Good evening, friends, family, and fellow congregants,

As I stand before you tonight, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride. Serving as the chairman of the Victory Park Shul has been one of the greatest honours of my life. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated milestones, and, most importantly, strengthened the bonds that make our community so unique.

From the outset, our committee embraced a flat structure—one where every member, entrusted with their portfolio, executed their responsibilities with dedication and excellence. This approach empowered each of you to shine, and the results speak for themselves. I am deeply grateful to every committee member for your commitment and for the spirit of collaboration that has defined our work.

When we began this journey, our focus was clear: to prioritise women and children, ensuring they felt seen, heard, and valued within our shul. This vision has become a reality, and the positive change is evident in every corner of our community life.

One of our proudest achievements has been the seamless integration of the Emmerentia community into our own. What could have been a chal-

lenge became a beautiful merging of traditions and friendships, enriching us all.

We undertook ambitious capital projects, including the replacement of our windows and the creation The Space. These improvements have not only enhanced our physical environment but have also created a more welcoming and functional space for all.

Financial stability is the bedrock of any thriving community. Through determined fundraising efforts and prudent management, we have rectified our financial situation, ensuring the shul's sustainability for years to come.

A significant step in this journey was the restructuring of our monthly membership subscription model. We made it a priority to ensure affordability for every member of our community, making it easier for all to be part of our shul family. At the same time, it is important to note that we will continue to rely on the generosity of our members—both through our annual fundraiser and during the High Holidays—to support the ongoing needs and growth of our shul.

Our spiritual life has also flourished. The reformation of our choir, now

led by a dedicated chazzan and choir master, has elevated our services and brought new inspiration to our prayers.

The Lady's Guild deserves special mention. Their tireless work has ensured that every function is beautifully catered and that every guest feels truly welcome. Their warmth and dedication are a cornerstone of our hospitality.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank those who consistently attend our weekday minyanim. Your commitment and presence are an integral part of the fabric of our shul. The continuity and strength of our daily services depend on your dedication, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

Finally, our events—whether celebrating chagim or fostering community participation—have reached new heights. The vibrancy and engagement we now see at every gathering are a testament to the collective effort and passion of so many.

As I step down, I do so with full confidence in the incoming committee. We are leaving the shul in good hands, and I have no doubt that they will continue to build on our successes and lead our community to even greater heights.

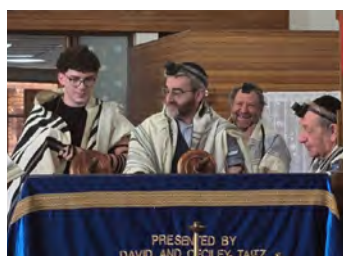
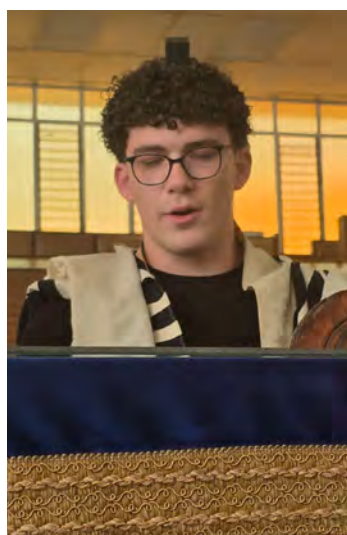
Thank you for the trust you have placed in me. Thank you for your partnership, your friendship, and your unwavering support. It has been my privilege to serve. May we go from strength to strength.

Finally, to our leaders . Rabbi and Rebbetzin Uzvolk, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Richard. Thank you for your commitment and dedication. May we go from strength to strength.

Am Yisrael chai

Thank you.

FATHER AND SON DAVENING BREAKFAST





RABBI SEEFF

A SHANA TOVA UMETUKAH

We always bless one another to have good and sweet new year. A shana tova umetukah.

The reason why we add “sweet” to the blessing and aren’t satisfied with it simply being a “good” year is because sometimes even the good things that happen aren’t sweet. Although we have faith that whatever happens to us is actually ultimately for the best and is somehow actually “good”, it doesn’t always feel good. Sometimes it just feels downright bitter.

I have written many letters in this publication wishing this special community a shana tova u’metukah. I know this year may have been good but it probably isn’t feeling particularly sweet.

SABJE has taken the agonising decision to close the beloved KDVP Campus. It is a decision that has sent shockwaves through the community and caused pain to many people, students, parents, residents and community members. It is a magnificent school and community which have played an integral role in our city and country for over six decades. There is a pervasive feeling of profound loss.

This sad news has been coun-

ter-balanced by the incredible vibrancy in your shul community. The visionary and powerful merger with Emmarentia Shul has injected new life and energy into the shul and the broader community it serves. The shul is active with daily minyanim, evening shiurim, children’s programmes and is a testament to the critical role the shul plays in keeping the community together.

Despite SABJE’s decision to close the school, we remain committed to keeping the shul alive and thriving. We understand the critical role you play for Johannesburg Jewry and the many families, young and old, who hold the shul and surrounding areas so dear.

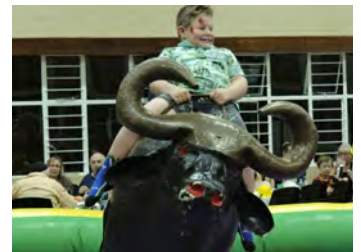
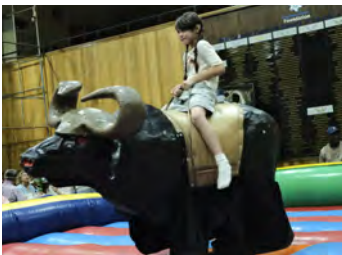
We are working closely with the shul committee to ensure a lasting and sustainable solution to keep the Western Flame burning. If anything, this is a time to continue investing and supporting the shul. To contin-

ue to shine a bright light, even in times that appear dark. The shul is and should remain a bastion of positivity, growth and a spiritual light for all of its members.

I hope that, despite the pain, this decision will hopefully prove to be a “good” one for the broader King David community, but I am confident that the shul can play a vital role in making 5786, a “sweet” year too. SABJE and the committee are intent on making that a reality.



PURIM PHOTOS 2025_PART 2



VICTORY PARK HEBREW CONGREGATION
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIMES FOR MINCHA AND MAARIV

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
September 14 Selichot Saturday midnight 12:00am Shacharit 8:00am Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm	September 15 Selichot followed by 6:15am Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm	September 16 Selichot followed by 6:15am Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm
September 21 Selichot followed by 7:30am Shacharit Help Build shul Succah Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm	September 22 Erev Rosh Hashana Selichot followed by 6:15am Shacharit followed by Hatarat Nedarim Candle Lighting before 5:46pm Mincha 5:45pm Maariv 6:00pm	September 23 Rosh Hashanah 1st day Shacharit 8:30am Torah Reading 10:15am Sermon 10:45am Shofar 11:00am Mussaf 11:15am Mincha 5:30pm Maariv 6:00pm Candle Lighting after *6:36pm
September 28 Selichot followed by 7:30am Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm	September 29 Selichot followed by 6:15am Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm	September 30 Selichot followed by 6:15am Shacharit Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm
October 5 Shacharit 8:00am Help Build shul Succah Mincha & Maariv 5:45pm	October 6 Erev Succoth Shacharit 6:45am Mincha 6:00pm Maariv 6:15pm Candle Lighting 5:52pm	October 7 Succoth 1st day Shacharit 9:00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha 6:00pm Maariv 6:15pm Candle Lighting *6:42pm
October 12 Shacharit 8:00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Mincha & Maariv 6:00pm	October 13 Hashana Rabba Shacharit 6:00am Lulav & Etrog Eat in Succah Candle Lighting before 5:55pm Mincha & Maariv 6:00pm	October 14 Shemini Atzeret Shacharit 9:00am Yizkor 10:45 and Geshem Eat in Succah Mincha 6:00pm Maariv and Hakkafot 6:00pm Candle Lighting after *6:46pm

NOTES: WE DO NOT SAY TACHNUM FROM YOM KIPPUR UNTIL 2ND MARCHESHVAN.
ALL HAZKAROT FOR YAHRZEITS DURING THIS PERIOD MUST BE MADE BEFORE YOM KIPPUR.

CALENDAR - YOM TOV 5786

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SHABBAT	
September 17		September 18		September 19		September 20	
Selichot followed by Shacharit	6.15am	Selichot followed by Shacharit	6.15am	Selichot followed by Shacharit	6.15am	Parsha Nitzavim	
						Shacharit	9.00am
Maariv	5.45pm	Mincha & Maariv	5.45pm	Mincha & Maariv	5.45pm	Mincha & Oneg	5.35pm
				Candle Lighting before	5.45pm	Shabbat	
						Maariv & Motzei Shabbat	6.34pm
September 24		September 25		September 26		September 27	
Rosh Hashanah 2nd day		Fast of Gedalia				Parsha Vayelech	
Shacharit	8.30am	Fast begins	4.45am	Selichot followed by Shacharit	6.15am	Shacharit	9.00am
Torah Reading	10:15am	Selichot followed by Shacharit	6.15am			SHABBAT SHUVA	
Sermon	10.45am						
Shofar	11:00am						
Mussaf	11:15am						
Mincha	5.45pm	Mincha				Mincha & Oneg	5.35pm
Maariv & end of Yom Tov	6.36pm	& Maariv	5.45pm	Mincha & Maariv	5.45pm	Shabbat	
		Fast ends	6.23pm	Candle Lighting before	5.47pm	Maariv & Motzei Shabbat	6.37pm
October 1		October 2		October 3		October 4	
Erev Yom Kippur		Yom Kippur				Parsha Ha'azinu	
Kaporot		Shacharit	8.00am	Shacharit	6.45am	Shacharit	9.00am
		Torah Reading	10:30am				
Selichot followed by Shacharit	6.45am	Sermon	11:00am				
		Yizkor	11.15am				
		Mussaf	11:30am				
Mincha	3.00pm	Mincha	4.00pm			Mincha & Oneg	5.40pm
Candle Lighting &		Neilah	5.15pm	Mincha & Maariv	5.45pm	Shabbat	
Fast begins	5.50pm	Maariv & Fast ends	6.40pm	Candle Lighting before	5.51pm	Maariv & Motzei Shabbat	6.41pm
Kol Nidrei	6.00pm						
October 8		October 9		October 10		October 11	
Succoth 2nd day		Chol Hamoed		Chol Hamoed		Shabbat Chol Hamoed	
Shacharit	9.00am	Shacharit	6:00am	Shacharit	6:00am	KOHELET	
Lulav & Etrog		Lulav & Etrog		Lulav & Etrog		Eat in Succah	
Eat in Succah		Eat in Succah		Eat in Succah		Shacharit	8.45am
Mincha	6.00pm			Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	Mincha & Oneg	5:45pm
Maariv & end of Yom Tov	6.43pm	Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	Candle Lighting before	5.54pm	Shabbat	
						Maariv & Motzei Shabbat	6:44pm
October 15		October 16		October 17		October 18	
Simchat Torah							
Shacharit followed by Hakkafot	8.30am	Shacharit	6:45am	Shacharit	6:45am	Shacharit	9.00am
Mincha	6.00pm			Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	Mincha & Oneg	5.45pm
Maariv & end of Yom Tov	6.46pm	Mincha & Maariv	6.00pm	Candle Lighting before	5.57pm	Shabbat	
						Maariv & Motzei Shabbat	6.48pm

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, LIA

STEPHANIE AND NIR GOLDBART



Judy Hodes' new granddaughter, Lia Hodes Goldbart, born to Stephanie and Nir in Tel Aviv on 23 June 2025.



Welcome to the world, Lia

You arrived when the skies above were heavy, during **Operation Rising Lion**.

Born in the hospital basement while the world above trembled, you came out quietly, but with strength. With spirit. With survival.

We named you Lia, after your great-grandmother **Lilithea** - the

lioness of our family.

A woman of fierce strength, quiet resilience, deep kindness, and unwavering love.

We pray, Lia, that you carry her strength in your soul, her fire in your heart, and her compassion in your hands.

May you grow proud of your name, your story, and your people.

May you walk gently, but never small, even in a world that may sometimes question who you are.

And may you never be afraid to be Jewish, to be strong, to be compassionate, and to be *home* in your heart and in this land.

Know that you are never alone. Behind you stand generations of courageous women and a nation that beats with eternal hope.

Welcome, sweet girl. You are exactly what we've been waiting for.

Written by her parents





RABBI YOSHI SHER

HONESTY IN BUSINESS: A TRUE TEST OF TRUST

When a Yid finishes his time in this world and stands before the Heavenly Court, the very first question he is asked is not how many pages of Torah he learned or how many Tehillim he said. The very first question he is asked is: “Were you honest in business?”

This question alone tells us just how central honesty is in the life of a Jew. It’s not a side matter. It’s not something “extra” for those in the business world. It’s at the very core of a person’s service of Hashem and mission in this world. Because if a Jew lives his weekday life – his dealings, his shopping, his sales, his loans – with truth and emunah (faith) in Hashem, then he brings Hashem’s presence into his day-to-day life. That is Yiddishkeit 101.

But what happens if we’re too honest in business, we lose out? We might not get that extra sale, we’ll have to fork out on so many hidden expenses, our competitors might get the better of us, we might get taken advantage of... The answer is: absolutely not. Shaar haBitachon (the Gate of Trust) explains that nothing can happen to a Yid without Hashem decreeing it so. A Yid will not earn more or less than what Hashem decides.

However strategic we may be, we cannot ‘outsmart’ Hashem. On the contrary, fulfilling Torah and mitzvos is the very path to receiving Hashem’s brochas, and to receiving parnossa and sustenance.

The Baal Shem Tov’s Merchant: Running Too Fast

There’s a famous story from the Baal Shem Tov that shines a deep light on this. A merchant chossid came rushing past the Baal Shem Tov one day. He was out of breath, running from one town to the next to sell his merchandise. The Baal Shem Tov stopped him and asked, “To where are you running?” The merchant replied, “I’m running to make a living.”

The Baal Shem Tov looked at him with kindness and said, “You’re running too fast. Your parnossa is trying to catch up with you, but you’re running away from it!”

This story isn’t just poetic – it’s truth. When we rush and panic, when we feel like if I don’t push harder, I won’t make it, we’re acting as if we’re in charge. But the truth is, Hashem is in charge. Yes, we must work. We must show up and do our part. But we do so

with calmness, bitachon (trust) and menuchas hanefesh (tranquillity of the soul).

Trust is the Foundation of Honesty

At the end of the day, what keeps a Jew honest in business is not just about being ‘nice’. It’s having bitachon. Trusting that Hashem runs the world; that no one can take from you what’s truly yours. While lying may bring short-term gain, if any, only truth brings long-term blessing.

This message is especially important in our times, when people are under pressure, when the marketplace is competitive, and when temptation lurks around every corner. But the Torah doesn’t bend. Our values don’t shift with the market.

And if a person ever wonders: *Will I really succeed if I stay honest?* Let him remember: Hashem is the one who provides the income – not the customer, not the boss, not the bank. *Blessed is the man who trusts in Hashem and Hashem shall be his trust (Yirmiyahu 17:7).*

OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

MICHAEL LUBOWITZ



“...And it was when the Angel of Death passed over the houses in Egypt and saw the “signs” – the mezuzot – upon the doorpost, that He passed over the houses” of the Israelites. It was soon afterwards with many signs and wonders that Hashem led the Israelites from the land of Egypt through the Sea of Reeds, with a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day on the pathway from slavery to redemption, from restriction to expansion, from servitude to free choice.

This was over 2 500 years ago and today one may ask “Does this still apply to me?”. How do I see the Hand of Hashem in my daily life and what signs and wonders of protection do I have without a Moses, a Joshua or a Beit Hamikdash?

In the infinite wonder and power of the Torah and Hashem, we have been given signs and symbols that we can access on a daily and weekly basis. We have the mezuzah, tefillin and Shabbos candles.

As with so many others, I have been

going through many challenges and moments of desperation, breakages and car trouble. Ok that’s a normality in this day and age – to the average person, but to a Jew it should be a ‘wake up’ or G-d call, unless you are on MTN or Vodacom and then its “your call could not be completed” or you have insufficient airtime, please try again later.....

It was on Gimmel Tammuz 5785, that while fabrenging and discussing the Lubavitch Rebbe it was suggested that I send a “letter” to the rebbe electronically or randomly select one from the thousands of letters. The skeptic in me goes “shrug”, but when I get home my soul does not stop. I close my eyes, silently say a prayer and ask Hashem for some “advise”, and as I surrender, a volume number and page come to mind. I immediately send this off to Yossi and he sends back the pages on which is the message...”and you should check your mezuzahs and tefillin”.

Great!!!!!! I do this regularly, but I will take my mezuzahs down and let the Rov check them all and just as a “protection” I will leave the one up on my front door. They all checked goodand today I took off my front mezuzah on the way to shachrit, where in a lull in davening (i.e. I lost concentration), I carefully unroll the mezuzah and watch as it starts

to disintegrate in my hands. It’s “Not Kosher”.

It is your choice to believe in the signs and wonders of the mezuzah, (the commandment is to put a mezuzah on your doorposts) and tefillin (to place a sign between your eyes) or experience the special energy a woman brings into the home by lighting Shabbos candles: but if you do....then your eyes and heart will be uplifted and turn to Hashem and you will be uplifted within yourself and understand that all the signs, wonders and snake poles of healing (parsha chukat) and incense fragrances are just an instruction to lift your thoughts upwards to Heaven.

MEZUZAHS SHOULD BE CHECKED TWICE IN A SEVEN YEAR PERIOD

While there’s no strict obligation to check tefillin regularly, it’s praiseworthy to do so, especially if they’re not worn daily. A common custom is to have tefillin checked at least once every seven years.

Checking by Rabbi Uzvolk. Removal and replacement at nominal rates ask Michael.



THE JOINING OF TWO SOULS

HESTER HOLLANDER



it all, stood the sacred promise of our ketubah — a timeless commitment rooted in Torah, love, and responsibility, binding us to one another with words that echo through generations.

Just as Rosh Hashanah is known in Jew-

On the 28th of Shevat 5785, our hearts overflowed with gratitude as we stood beneath our chuppah—gracefully positioned before the Aron Kodesh—marking the first wedding at VPHC after a long and quiet stretch, both literally and spiritually.



Like rainfall after drought, our simcha brought renewal, joy, and unity into the walls of our beloved shul.

Following in the great footsteps of the “unification of the communities” (איחוד הקהילות) between our two synagogues—Emmarentia and Victory Park Hebrew Congregation earlier last year, our chuppah symbolized not only the joining of two souls, but the beauty of together-

ness and community.

The air was filled with the soulful strains of violin, the glow of elegant decor, and the warmth of our cherished family and friends who gathered to celebrate our sacred moment. Rabbi Uzvolk officiated with deep sincerity, while Peter Berman and Rabbi Richard elevated our joy through stirring song.

As the horas broke out on either side of the mechitzah, it was as if two halves of one heart danced in harmony — distinct yet deeply connected — mirroring the essence of a Jewish marriage and the fabric of a unified community. And within



ish tradition as the time of kiddushin — the betrothal between Hashem and His people — our marriage beneath the chuppah echoed that eternal covenant, reminding us

that every Jewish union carries a spark of divine connection and destiny.

With heartfelt blessings under the canopy, delicious finger foods, and the joyous singing of the Sheva Brachot, we closed the day with hopes and prayers—for ourselves and our community—that this be only the beginning, b’ezrat Hashem, of many more simchas to come.



"JUDGING PEOPLE FAVOURABLY"



ESTHER RUBIN

This is a talk I gave at the ladies' shiur on a Shabbos a few weeks ago in memory of my late father Aharon ben Chaim Yitchak on his 3rd yartzheit, may his soul have an aliyah

Since we are approaching Rosh Hashannah, I feel that this is a time of introspection and looking inward. It could also be seen as a time of personal growth, as well as honest self-reflection. It is important not just to stagnate and repeat the patterns of the previous year, but to try and refine our character traits and try to grow into the best version of ourselves. Rosh Hashannah can be seen as a time of renewal and change.

One area that could be worked on is 'judging people favourably' and looking at the good in others. In Hebrew this is called "dan l'kaf zechut" and the source is in Pirkei Avot 1:6. The idea is to give people the benefit of the doubt but also to encourage people to assume the best intentions unless proven otherwise. When we focus on someone's positive qualities, it will affect the way we speak to them.

Here are a few ideas to help to see the good in others:

-Daven to Hashem to see the good. When we are trying to grow spiritually, the first thing we should do is ask Hashem to help us. There is

also a beautiful prayer that was composed by Rabbi Elimelech of Lizhensk, which we say to help us see the good in people and not their faults

-Try to understand people's motivations: A good way to cut down on frustration in relationships and to change our perception of people from the negative to the positive, is to try and understand people. We could also try to understand why they think or act a certain way, which would result in more respect in relationships

-Give partial credit : We should try to express appreciation for the effort someone put in and for what he did do, even if he didn't do the task exactly as you wanted it done

-Accept differences : We need to realise that just because we do things in a certain way, it does not mean other people need to do things in the same way. It's important to accept and respect these differences in people.

- We find faults where our faults lie: If we find faults in others, we should consider 'where is that fault in myself'. The Baal Shem Tov said that "the world is a mirror in which the faults we see in others are really those within ourselves "

-Don't keep score : People often become negative because they feel that one person does more of the

work, is more forgiving or understanding. Even though the person may feel that it's not fair, this attitude can block our happiness

-Everyone has faults, that's Hashem's design: Part of being human is having faults. We need to learn to embrace everyone with all their good points and their faults.

-Try to have an awareness of what others may be going through: we can try to be more sensitive in our speech and actions towards others and look for ways to do acts of kindness to those around us.

-Say hello and smile at others: you never know who needs it the most. We never know what another person is going through

-Forgive more: This may not be easy to do, but it is definitely worthwhile.

One of the sources for this talk is from the book written by Yehudis Samet, called "The other side of the story", giving people the benefit of the doubt, stories and strategies. She uses stories that people have told, which teach us the mitzvah of judging favourably. She said that judging people favourably also results in less loshon hara. The Chofetz Chaim encouraged people to get to the root of the problem and learn to judge favourably.

In conclusion, as we approach Rosh Hashannah, let's ask Hashem to judge us favorably, and look at our deeds with compassion. Let's try to see the best in others, as the way we judge others is the way Hashem will judge us. So let's try to search for the good in others and ourselves.

Shana tova umetuka, may you be inscribed and sealed for a year of joy, health and blessing.

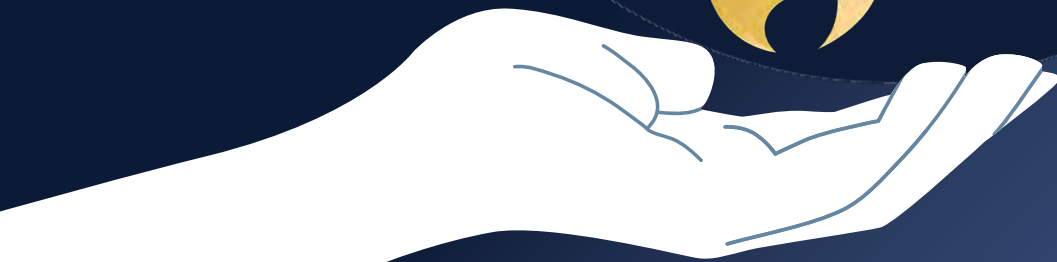
By Esther Rubin



WE ARE THE
NER HAMAARAVI
THE WESTERN FLAME!

Be the oil that keeps the flame burning!

THE WESTERN FLAME



BURNS BRIGHT!

Experience community, warmth,
and uplifting davening together.

BOOK YOUR SEAT WITH US

Telephone: 065 891 7637 Email: office@vpshul.co.za



VPHC

Victory Park
Hebrew Congregation

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"

WENDY ROTH

In the words of Hamlet "To Be or not To Be"

And in my words

"Sink or Swim".

This is about the first year of my time at Victory Park Shul, me coming from Emmentaria Shul. I suppose that I had a bit of practice of a change, as in 1977 I with my husband and 3 children went to live in Bloemfontein for one year which turned into nine years.

I came to Bloemfontein as a stranger, facing cliques of friends and not knowing who was related to who, which many a time nearly caused me to get into trouble.

I was a very strong WIZO worker in Johannesburg and knew there was branch in Bloemfontein. Well, I decided if one waits long enough, they say "time flies whether you having fun or not" it's your choice. To this day I tease them that I had to invite myself to the meetings. Having no fun can turn one to be totally isolated and in the end not even part of the good stuff.

So, as the saying goes if "you can't beat them join them".

That is exactly what I did. I didn't wait for any red carpet; I just moved in and joined everything. I absolutely had the most wonderful life in dear Bloemfontein.

That is, I think how I have tried with Victory Park Shul. I must say in my opinion everyone at Victory Park is very friendly and welcoming.

My lesson to any newcomer is that if you smile you will get a smile in return. Join in anything that you can manage and mix in with everyone no matter what age. Let old friends stick to their group, you will find your own group or somehow, sometimes you will be added to theirs.

Kol Hakavod to the Rabbis and Reb-betzins, for all their amazing effort that they are doing for the shul. I must say everyone is so easy to get a long with and it is so comfortable



to be in all the leaders, committee and congregants company.

From a Happy New Congregant
Wendy Roth.

Wishing everyone from me and my family a Shana Tova U'Metukah – May we continue to have hope and faith praying that Hashem's plan unfolds and we will have global peace – Amein.



OUR RESIDENT CAT, RABBI CATZ

LAG BA OMER 2025



MESSAGES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Wishing our wonderful community a sweet, healthy, and peaceful New Year filled with blessings, joy, and meaningful connections. Shana Tova! Love The Hurvitz Family

Tzippy Damelin & family wish the Rabbis, Rebbetzins & their families, friends and the congregation Ketiva ve chatima tovah. Shana Tovah to all.

Wishing you a prosperous and successful year, Shana Tova Umetuka Taichataivu Vetaichataimu. Love from all the Uzvolks.

Good wishes for Rosh Hashanah & a meaningful Fast.

Am Israel Chai & return of all our hostages.

Louella David Friedland and family

Shana Tovah. May you all be blessed with a year that's sweet & special in every way. David and Gail Friedman

Wishing everyone a wonderful year filled with happiness and health. Shana Tova and well over the Fast. Love Mannie and Marilyn Chaimowitz.

Wishing all our friends and the community a happy New Year and well over the Fast. Love The Kassel Family

Happy New Year and Well Over the Fast. Love from Toby, Denise and Brett Bernstein

Wishing our dear family and friends a shana tova u metukah. May the year ahead be filled with good health, happiness & Hashem's richest blessings. Fondest Love Stephen & Joanne Goldberg & Family

Wishing the entire Victory Park Community a Shana Tova u'Metuka! May we only grow from strength to strength - the Lewis Family

Alan and Lesley Lewis wish everyone a healthy, wonderful year.

Wishing our family, friends and the community a Happy New Year and well over the Fast. From Russel & Andy Koton and Family

Wishing everyone Shana Tova - We hope the upcoming year will be an amazing journey, full of health, laughter and special memories. May you all enjoy this special time together with your family and friends. Shana Tova Umetuka The Berman Family

Dear friends. Wishing you all a good and sweet New Year. May you all be inscribed and sealed for a year of good health, nachas, peace and contentment, and an abundance of revealed blessings from above. May our precious community continue to grow from strength to strength. Our very best wishes. Richard family

Happy New Year. May your year be filled with sweetness.
The Ermann Family

Wishing you and your loved ones a year filled with blessings, happiness & good health
With Love
Anthony Steph Zack & Micah Fineberg

VP a warm caring shul community. May the year ahead continue to hold, renew and strengthen your visions as a dynamic cornerstone of Judaism –individually and collectively. With affection to all. Shana tova umetuka.
Joan (Bernhard)

Wishing our friends and the community Happy New Year and well over the Fast.
From Dov and Sue Fleishman and Family

Shana Tovah to the whole community from Eli and Joy Ovadia and Family.

In times of uncertainty, the strength of community becomes all the more important. Thank you to our Rabbis, Rebbetzins, shul staff and committee for all that you do for the extended VP community. Shana Tova to all. Lee, Jake, Hannah and Jesse Berkowitz

In 1982 my husband Aubrey, myself and my two-year-old son Gershon moved to Victory Park. We then joined Victory Park shul. My 2-year-old Gershon had his own seat, which he was very proud of and kept it until he left to get married to Heather, and live in Toronto 16 years ago. He now has been blessed with 5 children. After Gershon we had a precious daughter Sarah, who still lives in Johannesburg and has a passion for teaching. On behalf of myself and my family, I want to wish the Rabbis and Rebbetzins, and all the congregation, a Shana Tova U'Metukah.
Love Jennifer Hurwitz

Wishing everyone a Chag Sameach.

The Rosenthal Family.

All the best. Wishing everyone a wonderful Yomtov and a great year to follow. From the Tichauer Family

Wishing everyone in the community a happy new year and well over the fast. From Les, Belinda and Sherri Kobrin

A very prosperous and happy new year and well over the fast to all.
Jill and Maurice Sack and family.

Wishing the Rabbis and their Families and the Victory Park community shana tova umetuka and well over the fast.
Love from the Rubin Family

Wishing the entire community a sweet, happy and healthy year ahead filled with many blessings.
Love from The Gimpel family

With our best wishes to our family and all congregants.
David and Ceciley Taitz

Wishing everyone peace, love and good health. Best wishes,
Arthur, Sheryl, Jay & Zi

LADIES GUILD AND RECIPES

GLAZED BRISKET

[My children's favourite Shabbos meal with roast potatoes and gravy – it's known as Granny's Brisket]

2.5 – 3 kg pickled brisket

Place the brisket in a pot with 3 carrots, 3 stalks of celery, quartered onions and a pinch of peppercorns, cover with water and boil for about 2 and a half to 3 hours till tender. Remove and place in an oven proof dish.

TIP: Don't discard the liquid (its beef stock).

Portion and freeze for future use in stews or soups.



Mix together:

4 T schmaltz
2/3 cup thick brown sugar
4 T brown vinegar
2 T mustard
1/2 tsp mustard powder
2/3 cup tomato sauce
Pour over brisket and bake uncovered for 30-40 mins.
Slice and pour over sauce.

[can be made in advance, even day before, and heated successfully on the hot tray]



FESTIVE CABBAGE SALAD

1/2 red cabbages shredded
4 sticks celery thinly sliced
8 fresh dates, pitted and quartered
4 apples of choice thinly sliced and julienned
[toss the apples in a few Tbsp of the dressing to prevent them going brown]
1/3 cup toasted sesame seeds

1 bag candied nuts – bashed up a bit
1 small bag chopped dried fruit
1 bunch fresh chopped coriander

Mix above altogether and toss with salad dressing

Whisk:

Half cup red wine vinegar
Half cup olive oil
Half cup honey
Salt and pepper

GG'S LEMON ICE CREAM PIE

2 pkts crushed biscuits of choice

Spray and line a springform tin with cling wrap, and press half the crushed biscuits into the bottom.

Separate 3 eggs
1/2 cup castor sugar
3 tsp grated lemon zest
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
250 mls whipped cream or Orley whip

Beat yolks and castor sugar till very thick and creamy.

Beat in lemon juice zest and a pinch of salt.

Fold in whipped cream.

Lastly fold in stiffly beaten egg whites.

Pour over base and top with remaining biscuit crumbs.

Cover with foil and freeze

Decorate with lemon leaves & zest



THE VICTORY PARK LADIES GUILD

JOANNE GOLDBERG

The Victory Park Ladies Guild is a vibrant part of our community. It comprises our Baking, Brocha Duty and Décor sub committees.

We have had a fantastic, much needed kitchen restoration, new storage and shelving facilities, which makes for a far more efficiently run kitchen. Most week days there is baking or organizing activity taking place, and on Shabbos mornings it is a regular stop by for many Ladies attending Shul. Assistance is offered, or else a good old chinwag and catch up whilst the Brocha is prepared. Very social indeed!

A huge thank you to Isaac, who now makes all our kichel, herrings, chilli salmon, muffins and some cakes in house, as well as ensuring the smooth running of the kitchen and Shul, always with a smile.

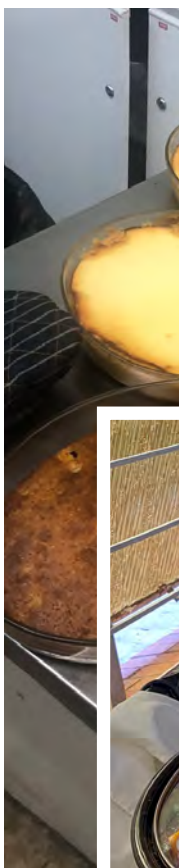
Thanks to Bismark & Paulina who assist on Shabbos & Yom Tovim functions, and of course to Thapelo who steps in when needed. We value and appreciate your assistance.

Massive thanks to the bakers, Brocha ladies and decorators, all your contributions, no matter how big or small are appreciated, and your efforts valued. We really are a fabulous team.

I would also like to acknowledge Adrienne for her help and kindness - thank you for all your assistance and advice.



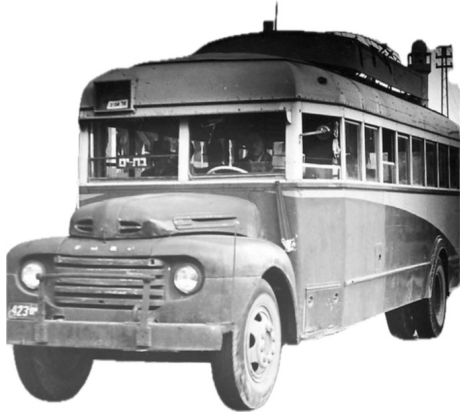
THE GUYS HELPING IN THE KITCHEN FOR A CHANGE



THE MIRACLE ON DAN BUS NO 4

CONTRIBUTED BY ROY SHIRES

It was a very hot day in July 1951 in Tel Aviv and too hot to walk. **Esor Ben-Sorek, a retired professor of Literature, Israeli history and Biblical studies** boarded Dan bus #4 on the corner of Ben Yehuda and Gordon streets.



The bus was very crowded and there was no available seat. He had to stand next to a Yemenite woman holding a live chicken under her apron.

People were chatting and discussing the day's news, each offering a personal description of the political situation, with many different opinions as is common in Israel. This one said, "I have a cousin in the police force and he told me....." Another replied, "that doesn't make any sense. My neighbor's son is in the army, and he was telling us....." And from the rear of the bus, a passenger shouted "who cares? Nothing will change soon".

At each bus stop some passengers alighted and new passengers boarded. By now there were a few empty seats.

As the bus approached another bus stop, three or four new passengers boarded. One elderly lady stepped up to the coin box next to the driver and deposited a few coins.

Suddenly, looking at the bus driver she gave a loud shriek. "Moishele, Moishele, Moishele, mein kind."

The driver jammed on the brakes, looked at the elderly woman and cried, "Mama, Mama, is it you Mama?"

Both were Holocaust survivors from Poland and each one thought the other one was dead.

Jumping up from his seat, the driver embraced his long-lost and presumed dead mother and both hugged and hugged and wept bitter tears of joy.

All the passengers clapped hands. Several were weeping from the joy of seeing mother and son re-united. One passenger jumped off the bus and hailed the next approaching bus. He shared the news with the new driver and requested him to notify the Dan bus company to send a relief driver.

No one left the bus. A relief driver appeared around half-hour later. Passengers sitting in the row behind the driver got up and gave their seats to the mother and son, who were still clutching one another and weeping with heart-wrenching sobs.

At some point, the original driver and

his mother left the bus while everyone clapped hands and the Yiddish-speaking passengers shouted "Mazal tov. Mazal tov. Tzu gezunt. A sach nachas".

Mother and son were probably heading to the driver's home so that his mother could meet his wife and her new grandchild.

All the passengers were so filled with emotion that it was difficult to contain themselves and there was not a dry eye among the passengers.

It was a hot July day in 1951 and Esor Ben-Sorek related that he would never forget the miracle on Dan bus #4 on that very happy day.

Adapted from the article by Esor Ben-Sorek, published in the Times of Israel, March 2016.

Appendix:

Rehov Ben Yehuda, likely known to most of you, is named after Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the father of modern-day Hebrew. According to Wikipedia, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda born Eliezer Yitzhak Perlman; 7 January 1858 – 16 December 1922) was a Russian-Jewish linguist, lexicographer, and journalist who immigrated to Jerusalem in 1881, when the Ottoman Empire ruled it. He is renowned as the lexicographer of the first Hebrew dictionary and also as the editor of Jerusalem-based HaZvi, one of the first Hebrew newspapers published in Palestine. Ben-Yehuda was the primary driving force behind the revival of the Hebrew language. He was born in the Vilna Governorate and died in Jerusalem, where he is buried on the Mount of Olives.



CHARTERED
TICHAUER
&
BLOCH
ACCOUNTANTS

L' Shana Tova

Wishing the community a New Year
filled with happiness and health!

Tel: 011 442 6623 | 217th Avenue | Parktown North



START THE NEW YEAR GLOWING

A ROSH HASHANAH GIFT FROM RADIANT SECRETS



As we step into 5786, it's the perfect time to treat yourself (or someone you love) to a **moment of renewal**.

📍 Just 15 minutes from Victory Park, Radiant Secrets is a **doctor-led aesthetic practice** in Illovo, offering advanced skincare in a discreet, serene setting.

To celebrate the New Year, we're offering something special:

Rosh Hashanah Facial Treat

Book any facial before Yom Tov and receive a FREE luxury skin-repair mask.

Share the Beauty

Bring a friend for a facial within 6 weeks, and you both receive R250 off your next visit.

Let this year be one of glow, grace, and good beginnings.

📞 Bookings: 079 173 8760

Led by Dr. Ovadia | www.radiantsecrets.co.za



LOREN LACHMAN

THE ROSH HASHANA MINDSET

Out with the hot water bottles, electric blankets and thermals. There is something new in the air, a new feeling, a new season. Blossoms fill the trees, it's a beautiful feeling. Out comes our summer wardrobe, the shrieks of joy after that first swim, the cold ice-cream that tastes completely different than when you ate it in winter. Painted toenails, bright colours, insects emerging from hibernation, sunscreen, hats, braais and bare feet.

There is a shift happening. Something is upon us – an excitement for what the new season brings. Do we need to mentally prepare ourselves for this seasonal shift? No, it happens naturally.

But, with this shift, something even more significant is approaching – we are standing at the threshold of a new year, a renewed beginning. Do we need to prepare ourselves mentally for this? For sure! In order to get the most out of anything, whether it be overcoming a challenge, starting an exercise routine, or embarking on a spiritual journey – it takes work. Hard work. The more effort we put in, the more we get out!

So how do we make this shift? How do we naturally embrace this time of year with a Rosh Hashanah

mindset? You might be wondering: What exactly is a Rosh Hashanah mindset?

The Rosh Hashanah mindset is all about renewal, reflection, and the deep belief that we can start fresh, no matter what happened before. There is optimism built into it – the belief that transformation is not only possible, but expected. That we're not stuck with who we were last year.

It's about creating a neurological reality that serves us. It's about looking internally, at our thoughts and beliefs. What reality are we creating for ourselves? What thoughts are trapping us in unhealthy patterns that we want to discard. What thoughts do we want to hold onto?

Instead of looking outward for answers, for solutions, we need to search deeply within ourselves. We have agency in our lives – our choices matter. We can influence what comes next.

It's all in the choosing!

Growth often comes in packages we didn't choose, but we are powerful beings who get to choose how we deal with what happens to us!

We get to choose what beliefs serve

us and what beliefs we want to leave behind. We get to choose what we tell ourselves – we get to choose how to parent, how we love, how we live and how we lead. We get to choose how we see our relationship with Hashem.

When we train our brain to understand what belief systems are our truth and when we learn to think about our thinking, this will not only have an effect on our soul-searching efforts, it ripples outwards, to our families, our communities and the world.

Practical brain training for the new year:

1. Reframe your internal dialogue – instead of thinking “I’m just not cut out for this?” “This is not me”, “I’m not that person”, “I’m bad at this” – Try this ... open yourself up to possibility thinking – “I am open to learning and growing”, “I haven’t attempted or mastered this mitzvah ... YET!”

2. Celebrate effort over outcome – focus on the attempt to grow, not just on the achievement.

3. Train your brain – don’t focus on past mistakes, but rather look for growth opportunities?

When we understand that both our souls and our brains are designed for transformation, the shofar’s call becomes even more powerful. It’s not just calling us to return, it’s calling us – to awaken our infinite potential for growth!

Loren Lachman

THE VICTORY PARK SHUL BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM

The VP Shul Bati Club follows the Roots program under the auspices of the Chief Rabbi as well as with some added additions specifically geared for our group of girls. This year we have a group of 12 girls participating led by our Rebbetzin Wendy.

The aim is that each girl learns to live and love her Yiddishkeit. As they begin their journey to being a Jewish woman, they are encouraged to be aware that each of them has a mission and a purpose, and is responsible and accountable to their family, friends, community and to the world as a whole.

The ceremony at the end of our journey brings their families together to celebrate their months of learning, growth and to salute their accomplishments. Each girl will receive a certificate from the Roots program and a gift from the Shul. Our prayer is that this ceremony leads the girls into an ever growing and proud relationship with our beautiful heritage.



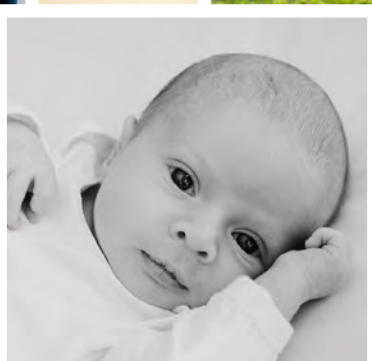
The lessons will be held every second Sunday morning, and each class is an hour and half of learning, crafts, snacks and socializing! Some extras include a chessed morning, Mom and daughter challah bake, a father and daughter lesson, havdalah candle making, a Mikva tour, the Amazing Race, hamantashen baking and some kosher shopping.

CELEBRATIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS



ESTI HURVITZ BATI

BATMITZVAH OF ZELTON KLESS' GRANDDAUGHTER GIA ARENSON

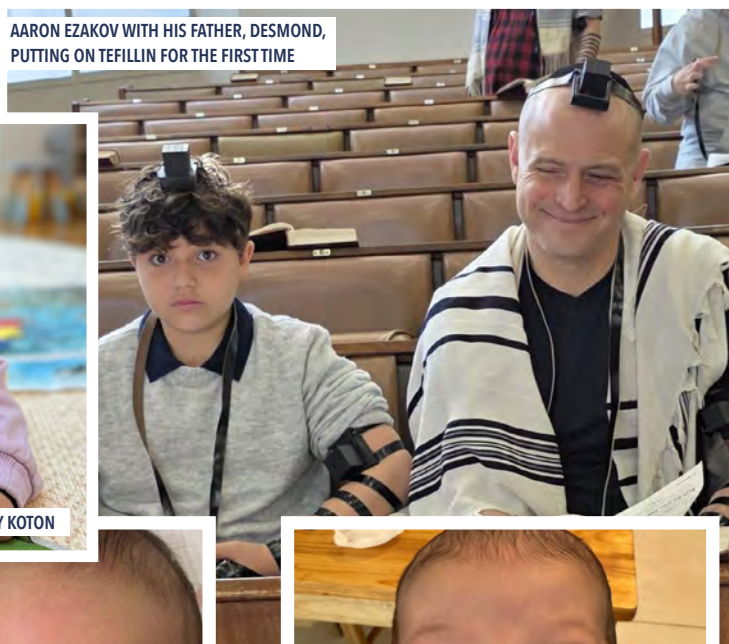


ASHER AARON, SON OF CARLI & AMIR LAUFERT.
BORN 19 APRIL 2025.
GRANDSON TO LAUREN & JONNY MYERS



THE ENGAGEMENT OF AARON FLEISHMAN & SAMANTHA SCHILLER

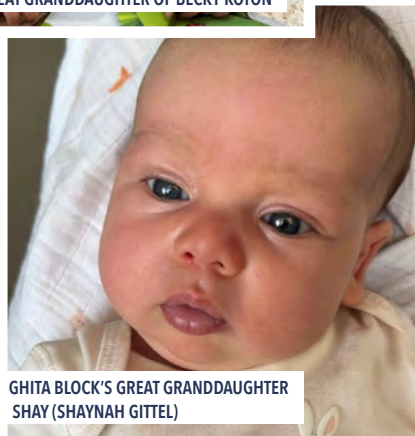
AARON EZAKOV WITH HIS FATHER, DESMOND,
PUTTING ON TEFILLIN FOR THE FIRST TIME



ZOE KOTZEN, GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF BECKY KOTON



FARRELL BEN'S BABY GRANDSON JAYDEN



GHITA BLOCK'S GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER
SHAY (SHAYNAH GITTEL)



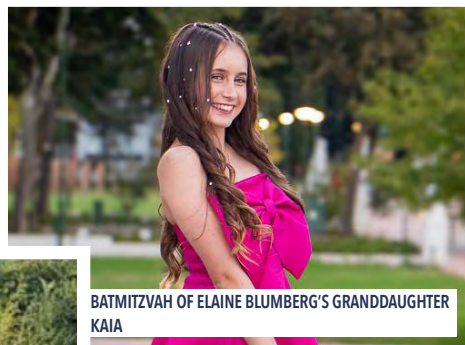
MEIR AND TERRI ELMALEH'S NEW GRANDSON
YEHONATHAN



LES & IONA SAMOWITZ'S NEW TWIN GRANDSONS,
ELISHA & ELIAV, BORN TO SHLOMO & SARA



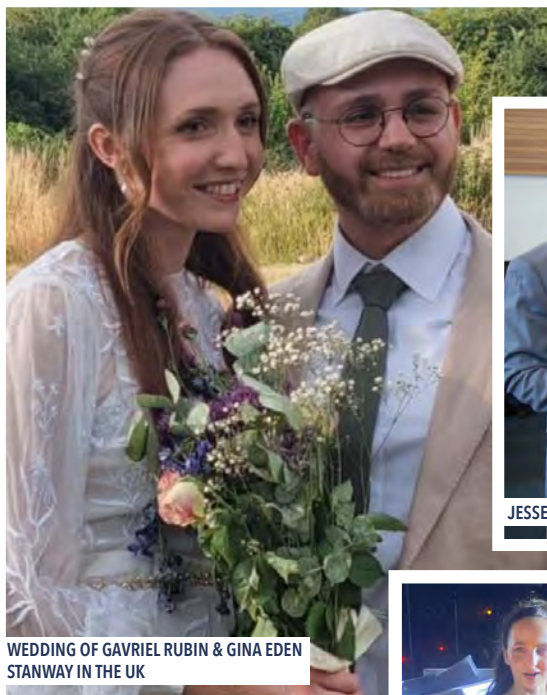
MARRIAGE OF LES AND IONA SAMOWITZ'S DAUGHTER
DANA TO JEREMY KATZEN.



BATMITZVAH OF ELAINE BLUMBERG'S GRANDDAUGHTER
KAIA



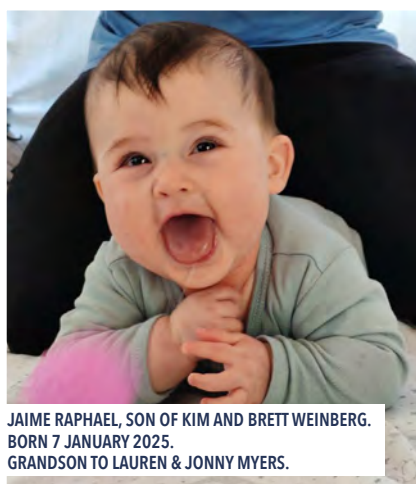
DANIEL FLEISHMAN GRADUATION - BACHELOR OF MEDICINE
AND BACHELOR OF SURGERY (MBCHB)



WEDDING OF GAVRIEL RUBIN & GINA EDEN
STANWAY IN THE UK



JESSE BERMAN'S BARMITZVAH



JAIME RAPHAEL, SON OF KIM AND BRETT WEINBERG.
BORN 7 JANUARY 2025.
GRANDSON TO LAUREN & JONNY MYERS.



BATMITZVAH OF AUBREY GAMSU'S
GRANDDAUGHTER RUBY



JESSE BERMAN'S BARMITZVAH

KING DAVID VICTORY PARK — WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS YOUR NAME

ANDY KOTON

For as long as I can remember, Victory Park has been more than just a suburb in Johannesburg — it has been my world. My name is Andy Koton nee Katz, and I've lived here my entire life. My roots in this community run deep. My grandfather Dr Carl Barrett was a founding member of the primary school and my other grandfather Israel Katz donated classrooms. My mother was among the earliest students to matriculate from King David Victory Park. My husband's family went through Victory Park, as well as my siblings and nieces.

My own story is intertwined with these streets. I remember meeting my friends on the corner before school, the chatter and laughter as we walked together in the mornings, and then again as we all made our way home in the afternoons. That simple daily ritual — walking to school, walking home from school — wasn't just routine, it was a rhythm that bound us together. In fact I literally married the boy next door. My husband Russel and I grew up living 5 houses away.

I've had three of my own sons go through the system.. Our family history is woven into the very fabric of the school. That's why the announcement from the South African Board of Jewish Education that our beloved Victory Park campus will close at the end of 2025 has felt like a deep cut to the heart. We are shattered.

The reality is plain: the demographics of Johannesburg have changed. Jewish families no longer settle in this part of the city in the same numbers. Slowly, our school has shrunk, and while many of us knew,

deep down, that this day might come, the actual moment has still come as a shock. The Board made the choice to act decisively — to rip off the Band-Aid rather than draw the process out over 18 months, which might have left the school hollowed out in its final days. I understand their reasoning. But understanding doesn't make it easier to say goodbye to the heartbeat of our community.

This news hit me hardest as a mother. My son is in Grade 11 now, set to be in matric next year. Instead of walking across the road to school, he will be catching a bus to King David Linksfield and facing a long commute home each day. No more getting out of bed at 7:20am to be at school by 7:40am. At first, I was crushed — heartbroken for the life and routine he would lose.

But then something shifted in me. I realised I needed to meet this moment with the same strength I hope to see in him. I have decided to stand firmly beside him, to celebrate this transition, and to focus on the opportunities it will bring. King David Linksfield is a bigger campus, with more students, more activities, and a different energy — and I believe his matric year can

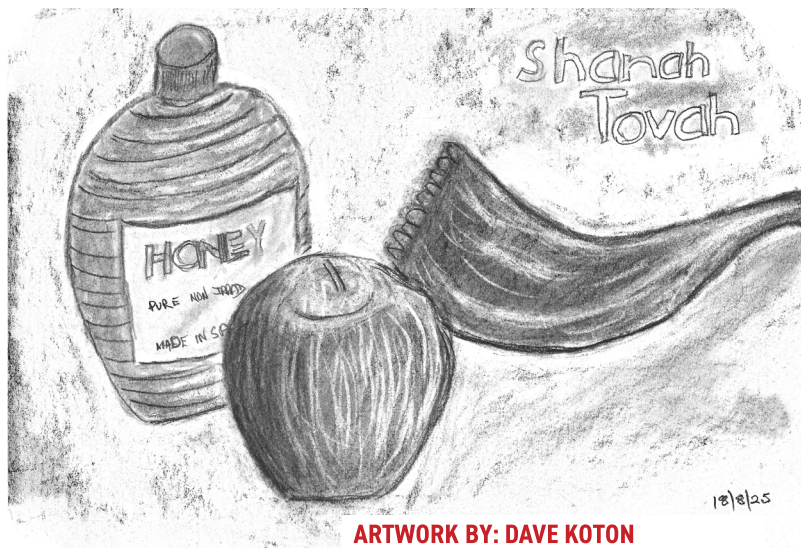
still be special.

And yet, this is about more than one school. As Jews, we know we are living in a world where antisemitism is rising, and unity has never been more vital. We must remember the pillars of Judaism and the pillars of what King David Victory Park stands for — living with honesty, integrity, and tolerance — and, perhaps most importantly, being respectful to one another, even in times of difficulty or disagreement. Now is not the time to fracture; it is the time to stand shoulder to shoulder, to hold our community together with kindness, dignity, and purpose.

This unity is not just about our schools — it is also about our shuls. Our shul community in Victory Park must come together now more than ever, to ensure we survive the challenges ahead and keep the flame alive. The Northwest Jewish community's flame must still burn brightly here. Even without the school building, Victory Park can and must remain a place of Jewish life, Jewish learning, and Jewish spirit.

Victory Park has given generations of us a place “where everybody knows your name.” That spirit doesn't vanish with the closing of a building. It lives in the friendships, the memories, the shared heritage, and the way we continue to show up for one another.

I will grieve for what we are losing, but I will also hold hope for what's ahead — for my son, for our schools, for our shuls, and for the Jewish community as a whole. And I believe that if we face these changes together with unity and resilience, we will still have much to be proud of in the years to come.



ARTWORK BY: DAVE KOTON

TISHREI 5786

CONGREGANT		Yahrzeit	Date of Yahrzeit			
TUCKER	Shirley	Father in Law	1st	TISHREI	23rd	September
KRAWITZ	Jack	Wife	2nd	TISHREI	24th	September
KRAWITZ	Leon	Mother	2nd	TISHREI	24th	September
BERGER	Lel	Father	3rd	TISHREI	25th	September
MEYBERG	David	Father-in-law	3rd	TISHREI	25th	September
ARENSON	Carol	Mother	4th	TISHREI	26th	September
ESAKOV	Limor	Father	4th	TISHREI	26th	September
NOSSEL	Barbara	Mother	4th	TISHREI	26th	September
MOLL	Michelle	Father	5th	TISHREI	27th	September
BERKOWITZ	Gill	Father	5th	TISHREI	27th	September
JACOBS	Julian	Grandfather	5th	TISHREI	27th	September
KATZEFF	Rubina	Mother	5th	TISHREI	27th	September
ROTH	Wendy	Grandfather	5th	TISHREI	27th	September
SCHNAID	Linda	Husband	6th	TISHREI	28th	September
SCHNAID	Caron	Father	6th	TISHREI	28th	September
DAMELIN	Tzippy	Father-in-law	7th	TISHREI	29th	September
COPANS	Arline	Mother	8th	TISHREI	30th	September
LOEWENSTEIN	Hilton	Father	8th	TISHREI	30th	September
UZVOLK	Laia	Father	8th	TISHREI	30th	September
EPSTEIN	Jeffrey	Father	9th	TISHREI	1st	October
FRIEDMAN	Stan	Mother	10th	TISHREI	2nd	October
COLLIE	Monty	Mother	13th	TISHREI	5th	October
SWARTZ	Toni	Mother	14th	TISHREI	6th	October
SCHNAID	Linda	Father	15th	TISHREI	7th	October
SCHNAID	Caron	Grandfather	15th	TISHREI	7th	October
COMAROFF	Sherri	Mother	16th	TISHREI	8th	October
FRIEDLAND	David	Mother	16th	TISHREI	8th	October
OVADIA	Eli	Mother	16th	TISHREI	8th	October
FRIEDLAND	Louella	Father	17th	TISHREI	9th	October
BERNSTEIN	Toby & Denise	Sister-in-law	17th	TISHREI	9th	October
HURVITZ	Jonathan	Mother	17th	TISHREI	9th	October
ROSENBERG	Charmaine	Father	17th	TISHREI	9th	October
SACK	Jacqui	Father	17th	TISHREI	9th	October
SHER	Jeffrey	Grandmother	19th	TISHREI	11th	October
SHER	Bennie	Father	20th	TISHREI	12th	October
STRIMLING	Michael	Mother	20th	TISHREI	12th	October
BLOCK	Michael	Grandmother	21st	TISHREI	13th	October
MARKS	Gillian	Son	21st	TISHREI	13th	October
MARKS	Lara	Brother	21st	TISHREI	13th	October
HYMAN	Maxine	Brother	21st	TISHREI	13th	October
ROTH	Tony	Mother	23rd	TISHREI	15th	October
BENATER	Ilana	Grandfather	24th	TISHREI	16th	October
BROWN	Jenifer	Father	24th	TISHREI	16th	October
FLAUM	Joelene	Grandfather	24th	TISHREI	16th	October
GORDON	Nurit	Mother-in-law	24th	TISHREI	16th	October
LEIBOWITZ	Belinda	Father	25th	TISHREI	17th	October
FIHRER	Joan	Father	25th	TISHREI	17th	October
KNOPP	Harold	Father	26th	TISHREI	18th	October
MILLER	Shelli	Father	26th	TISHREI	18th	October
KLAWANSKY	Raymond	Father	27th	TISHREI	19th	October
KLAWANSKY	Tickey	Father	27th	TISHREI	19th	October
DAMELIN	Tzippy	Husband	28th	TISHREI	20th	October
BERNSTEIN	Denise	Brother	29th	TISHREI	21st	October

New year, new vision. Let's make it sweet.

Wishing our clients, associates
and team a Shana Tova and well
over the fast.

Our partner-led firm specialises in
providing high quality audit, accounting,
tax and business advisory solutions.

Your vision. Our ambition.

pkfoctagon.com