

FROM THE EDITOR

WWW.JEWISHLIFE.CO.ZA



know, she got 10 distinctions!

However you fared in your matric exams, know that your life is only just beginning. For those of you who did well, don't rest on your laurels and risk making high school the highlight of your life. For those who didn't do as well as you'd hoped, don't be discouraged from reaching for your dreams; this isn't the end, it's only the beginning (and test-taking, believe it or not, is a skill that can be learned and improved on with time, practice and a bit of patience). Pick yourself up and keep moving forward. Don't mistake a speed bump in the road of life for an insurmountable climb up Mt Everest. Equally important, don't let yourself be caught comparing your performance to that of others. Test grades unfortunately don't take into account effort, enthusiasm or even growth. One person's 'C' is another person's 'A' – and vice versa; just because someone did well doesn't mean he didn't 'phone it in', giving a half-hearted performance that required little, or even no, effort. If you truly gave it your all and put forth your best effort, then you have nothing to feel bad about or to be ashamed of.

Whatever you do, do it well and give it your all. The Torah tells us (Shemos 6:9) that Hashem instructed Moshe to speak to the Jewish people about their soon-to-take-place redemption, but that, "... [the Jewish people] did not listen to Moshe, because of shortness of breath and hard work". Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag points out that the verse is entirely out of order: hard work leads to shortness of breath, not the other way around. After a person exerts himself for a period of time, he eventually needs to pause to catch his breath. But, in this case, the verse is telling us that the Jewish people were already short of breath before the hard work even began. The lesson, says Rabbi Kurtstag, is that when we lack enthusiasm and passion for what we're doing, then everything feels like hard work and drudgery. The attitude with which we approach things determines the experience that we'll have.

To put it slightly differently: find the thing you're passionate about and then the work you do won't feel like work at all. And, perhaps, this is where you'll find you're at a bit of an advantage to previous generations. Gone are the days of choosing one area of study and then being pigeon-holed into working in that area for life. With the ways in which (and the pace at which) the world is changing, you can almost certainly expect to train and re-train throughout your life, giving you the opportunity to try many different areas and – hopefully, as a result – increase your chances of stumbling on something you feel truly passionate about.

Here's hoping you find your passion sooner rather than later and that you never work a day in your life!

On behalf of everyone here at JL, hearty congratulations to the class of 2015 and best wishes on your next step, whatever it may be.

And our best wishes also to Heidi Hurwitz and Rachel Falkson, who are leaving JL to pursue new opportunities. We thank you for your hard work and wish you tremendous success in your new endeavours.

ROBERT SUSSMAN, EDITOR

ON THE COVER: PIC BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM. IN TRIBUTE TO OUR THEME OF MATRICS, OUR COVER FEATURES THE AGE-OLD MORTARBOARD CAP AND TASSEL TRADITIONALLY WORN BY GRADUATES THE WORLD OVER AFTER BEING THROWN IN THE AIR IN CELEBRATION. THIS WELL-WORN TRADITION OF THROWING THE CAP AT THE END OF A GRADUATION CEREMONY APPEARS TO DATE BACK TO A UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY IN 1912.



CREDITS

PUBLISHER & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Martyn Samuels
martyn@jewishlife.co.za

EDITOR

Robert Sussman
robert@jewishlife.co.za

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Linda Superfain
linda@jewishlife.co.za

ART DIRECTOR

Rizelle Hartmeier
studio26@telkomsa.net

FEATURES WRITER

Chandrea Serebro

COPY EDITOR/PROOFREADER

Heidi Hurwitz

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ilan Ossendryver
ilan@ic-creations.com

DIGITAL MANAGER

David Blumenau
david@jewishlife.co.za

CONTRIBUTORS

Rabbi Ezra Adler, Leonard Carr, Eliana Cline,
Gabi Crouse, Jenny Diner, Linda Dirmeik,
Rabbi Dr David Fox, Gilda Galvad, Linda Galvad,
Rabbi Efreim Goldberg, Bev Goldman, Rabbi Yossy
Goldman, Wendy Kahn, Serenne Kaplan, Rikki Katz,
Aviva Porush, Ilan Preskovsky, Liz Samuels,
Moir Schneider, Michelle Vinokur

Printers Paarlmedia kzn**Distribution**

Neil Jacobson
Mel Levitt

JEWISH LIFE is published by Total Publishing
(Pty) Ltd ©2008.

If you live within the boundaries of the
eruv, feel free to take this publication
home with you.

**THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS WORDS
OF TORAH. PLEASE TREAT IT WITH
THE RESPECT IT DESERVES.**

ISSN 1994-8670

Total Publishing (Pty) Ltd

PO Box 52339, Saxonwold 2132

The views expressed in this issue of
Jewish Life are not necessarily those
of the Publisher or Editor.



Certified for the period
July – September 2015: 13 328