

FROM THE PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

CREDITS



WELCOME TO JL

It's said that change is the only constant, but it's not true. Everything is part of a bigger plan which is its own constant. Change, like the grand plan of the world itself, is definitely an exciting thing.

So, what's the excitement at *Jewish Life*?

On behalf of the team and all our readers, I welcome Robert Sussman as our new editor and I wish him great enjoyment and much success in the role. He will be making sure you continue to receive the best possible magazine (some say the best Jewish magazine in the world) and develop it to be an even more essential part of the life of our community.

Robert is a qualified attorney, writer, educator, learner, husband and father. Originally from the USA, he's been most recently active in South Africa in the fields of kashrus management, school administration, and you may also know him from the many articles he has written for this publication.

He's been part of the team for a few weeks, and has worked with Paula to create this very special issue. At this point, I would like to say a word of thanks to Paula for all the professionalism, hard work and dedication she's shown the magazine over the last 7½ years – her enthusiasm and skill has gone a long way to helping us become a world-class publication. We wish her every happiness for the future.

Together, they have packed a wealth of great content into this edition: exclusive articles from renowned international writers, insights from the great talent we have in South Africa, plus a personal anecdote from Robert himself on how he rediscovered the Torah two decades ago. It's a most fitting topic as we come to Shavuot, when we all received the Torah for the first time and became G-d's Holy Nation and Kingdom of Priests. The mission – to do His will with simcha... and great excitement.

Wishing all our readers great excitement, hatzlocha and a chag sameach.

MARTYN SAMUELS, PUBLISHER



I must begin my first editorial by acknowledging the tremendous accomplishments of my predecessor, Paula Levin, who managed to create an entirely new South African publication that both contributes to and reflects the vibrancy of the SA Jewish community. The community is indebted to you, Paula, for all your hard work over the last 7+ years.

Jewish Life is obviously a team effort, and I wish to thank everyone on the team for their warm welcome, their incredible generosity, and their patience in bringing me up to speed on how everything works, as I slowly ease into the very big shoes that Paula leaves behind. And a very special thank you to

Paula, with whom I shared editing duties for this issue. It is both a blessing and an honour to be a part of this incredibly talented team, and I am profoundly thankful to Hashem for this privilege.

I was recently reminded just how special the South African Jewish community is when my family and I went to help pack Pesach boxes for one of the local tzedakah organisations. The unity that exists here cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Only in South Africa can you see people from across the entire Jewish spectrum standing side-by-side and working together for the good of the Jewish people. It is pure beauty. There are, of course, differences between us, but the similarities that bind us are far greater, both in quantity and quality, as well as in strength.

Please G-d, may the magazine always help to reflect and to show that a *Jewish Life* is a life that's worth living and even sacrificing for; that Hashem's covenant with His people is alive and well in the 21st century; that His eternal and holy Torah, along with the timeless teachings of our Sages, continues to inspire us, excite us, and even be relevant in our daily lives.

May we learn together; may we grow together; and may we, the South African Jewish community, and the entire Jewish community around the world, go from strength to strength!

A big thank you to Martyn Samuels for placing his trust in me.

Have a great yom tov – chag sameach!

ROBERT SUSSMAN, EDITOR

ON THE COVER: IN HONOUR OF OUR MULTI-ARTICLE SHAVUOT FEATURE ON THE DNA OF MOSHIACH, OUR COVER FEATURES A CLOSE-UP OF THE DNA (DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID) DOUBLE HELIX MOLECULE THAT ENCODES THE GENETIC INSTRUCTIONS USED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL KNOWN LIVING ORGANISMS. SOURCE: BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM



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