

FROM THE PUBLISHER AND EDITOR

It is told by Rav Avraham Schorr that the Vilna Gaon would arrive to daven on Rosh Hashanah beaming. He wore the biggest smile and had the happiest disposition. While others in those days and even more so now would enter this auspicious Day of Judgement with trepidation, fear, and even terror, the Gaon would be filled with joy. He knew that he was greeting the King of Kings. Imagine, says Rav Schorr, if the King of a country arrived to pay a visit to his subjects. He arrived and only saw miserable faces, worry and sadness written all over them. What would he think? They don't love me? They are a bunch of miserable ingrates! Off with their heads! The King comes to town

and expects honour, pride, happiness, love, and appreciation in recognition for all the great things he has done for each and every one of his loyal subjects. Not misery and fear. Even more so when the King of Kings pays a visit, as it were. And it is on Rosh Hashanah that we have the opportunity to show our appreciation for everything Hashem does and that everything that happens is a reason to appreciate the King of Kings, to thank Hashem in the knowledge that everything comes from Him and happens because He wants it to happen.

So too, if the King comes and there are no decorations, no place set up for him to speak to the crowds, no band, no "pomp and circumstance", nothing at all prepared for his arrival, then again, he will be very disapproving. Hence, we have Elul at least to prepare ourselves for the King of Kings' arrival. We have time to think, to do teshuva, and make sure we know what direction we want to go when the King of Kings does come. Then, when the days of Rosh Hashanah are here, we can all beam with happiness as did the Vilna Gaon, showing Hashem we acknowledge Him fully for everything. Preparation is key, and I hope you enjoy this edition of JL as it approaches its 10th birthday in October. If the articles can assist in preparing you for a more enriching and "beaming" Rosh Hashanah and beyond, then we would have fulfilled our purpose too.

Once again the JL team has excelled itself and my thanks go to Robert, Liz, Linda, Chandra, and Rizelle for their terrific work. We have superb contributors too, many dating back to our very first edition. And so too our loyal advertisers without whom we would not be able to do very much at all. We thank them all, old and new, for their most wonderful support. Thanks to you all.

Ksiva v'chasima tova.

MARTYN SAMUELS, PUBLISHER



There's a reason why we use expressions like "storming the Heavens with our prayers" – akin to waging a war when we pray. Our Sages see the tongue as being more powerful than the deadliest sword and compare prayer to the bow and arrow. Like an archer pulling back his bowstring, the greater the feeling and intention behind our prayers, the farther those prayers will travel, even able to break through the heavens above. Building upon this analogy to warfare, Rabbi Shimshon Dovid Pincus, ztz"l, notes how a Jewish soldier has to remain fearless in battle, being entirely focused on the task at hand and seeing the fate of the entire Jewish people as hanging on him.

Rabbi Pincus explains that we need to feel on Rosh Hashanah like it is a time of battle. He recalls how he once walked out for a moment on Rosh Hashanah during the repetition of the amidah and saw a young man who was upset, sitting off in a room by himself. The young man told Rabbi Pincus that he was broken. He had woken up late and he felt like his Rosh Hashanah was lost. Rabbi Pincus told the young man about when he had visited Shaarei Tzedek Hospital during the Six Day War and saw a soldier arguing with a doctor. The soldier, who had been shot in battle, had just had the bullet removed. The doctor wanted to send the soldier home, but the soldier refused: "I will not go home! Is it time to take a holiday? I must return to the battlefield!" So, Rabbi Pincus said to this young man, "We too find ourselves at a time of battle. You're wounded? Take a bandage and dress your wounds – and then immediately return to the campaign!"

On Rosh Hashanah, we are all soldiers and we need to see ourselves as if the entire fate of the Jewish nation rests on our shoulders – because, in truth, it does. Life and death are literally in our hands. Each one of us needs to feel like he is davening on behalf of the entire Jewish people and for the sake of the entire world.

May we be victorious and may it be a wonderful new year for the Jewish people and the world.

ROBERT SUSSMAN, EDITOR

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

Chandra Serebro

COPY EDITOR/PROOFREADER

Dovid Samuels

DIGITAL MANAGER

David Blumenau
david@jewishlife.co.za

CONTRIBUTORS

Rabbi Ezra Adler, Leonard Carr, Eliana Cline,
Rabbi Dr David Fox, Bev Goldman,
Rabbi Yossy Goldman, Wendy Kahn,
Serenne Kaplan, Sharon Newfield, Ilan Preskovsky,
Dovid Samuels, Liz Samuels, Moira Schneider,
Chandra Serebro, Rabbi Ari Shishler, Jade Singer,
Michelle Vinokur

Printers Paarlmedia kzn

Distribution

Merle Jacobson
Marc 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

Jan – June 2017: 12 841

ON THE COVER: A BEE DEPOSITING HONEY IN A HONEYCOMB. ON ROSH HASHANAH, WE DO VARIOUS THINGS, LIKE EATING APPLES DIPPED IN HONEY, AS A TANGIBLE, SYMBOLIC DISPLAY OF OUR HOPES AND PRAYERS THAT HASHEM WILL BLESS US WITH A SWEET NEW YEAR. BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM

