



*Proudly South African!
Bok fever*

King Davidians all around the world recently celebrated South Africa's Rugby World Cup victory. From JHB and New York to London and beyond, South Africans rejoiced in the Springbok's glorious win. Featured here is former head boy, Daniel Gewer (KDHS 1976), welcoming home Siya Kolisi and the treasured Web Ellis Trophy. "He's a national hero who has inspired the life of every South African. Captain, our Captain." Daniel Gewer.

THE KDSF ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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As 2019 draws to a close, I cannot but feel a sense of concern for so many reasons. I think of the rise of anti-Semitic incidents in so many countries, of xenophobia, of global warming, of the fourth industrial revolution and automation and its effect on human employment.

I was therefore somewhat comforted when I read about the brave Swedish teenage environmentalist Greta Thunberg's diatribe to world leaders on the climate crisis, and by the recent headline "Putting robots to work to CREATE jobs for humans" in Arthur Goldstuck's column in the Sunday Times. Of course, we are all grateful for all that technology has done to improve the quality of human life with the advances in medical science and the miraculous speed of communication on computers and cell phones. Is it not ironic then, that in spite of the ease and speed of communication, international relations are floundering, and social media and cell phones have created a vicious scenario for cyber bullying, that the essential need for direct face-to-face interpersonal contact is being lost?

Finally, let me express a personal but I know futile gripe from an eighty-three year old. One of the new buzzwords in technology these days is Artificial Intelligence or AI. Perhaps, I may be alone voice in my criticism of the coining of this phrase but I strongly take exception to the use of the word "intelligence". For me intelligence strongly connotes a human quality, a quality that distances and distinguishes us from the inanimate, mechanical world of technology. I recall, for obvious reasons, that the word "intelligence" is derived from the Latin verb "intellegere" meaning "to understand", and therefore conveys the sense of human thinking, of moral understanding and human intellect. For me then the phrase artificial intelligence is a perfect example of oxymoron - a contradiction in terms! Would you not agree that "artificial computation" would have been a better choice to express the technological, scientific calculation of man-made robots???

With 2020 in the offing, with its double "score" connotation, let us hope that Greta Thunberg's emotional, "intelligent" outburst will have some impact on world leaders and that we all will make an effort to recognise that our common humanity should be our rationale to improve international communication and our efforts to rescue our planet from its threatened future.

I started my topic with a quotation from Albert Einstein, and couldn't resist concluding with another amazingly accurate one from so formidable an ally:

"I fear the day that technology will surpass human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots".

Best wishes.
Elliot Wolf

From the Wolf's Mouth

-Facing a World of Technology with Some Misgivings



"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity".

- Albert Einstein



A Wrap up of the Year

- **RAELENE TRADONSKY**

As I look back on another very busy year at the KDS Foundation, I am once again grateful for the investment in Jewish education and in our schools by all our generous donors.

We continue to meet with donors and keep them abreast of our efforts and developments within our schools. In addition, we host events, which bring together all our stakeholders - donors, alumni and current parents. I am proud to report that total commitments to the Foundation have reached over R295m, with over R205m of this already received, and the balance in pledges, receivable over a three to five year period.

These commitments from donors have allowed us to complete another year of exciting projects at our schools. The focus this year, following the Linksfield and Sandton campuses, was on the Victory Park campus. Major upgrades included 10 new classrooms, additional admin offices and a new art centre at the high School, as well as complete refurbishment of the pre-primary school. King David Ariel, our new Jewish remedial school, located on King David Victory Park campus, with shared sporting and cultural activities, started in 2018 with Grades 0-4. The school has been an overwhelming success, with increased growth year on year, necessitating new classrooms and growing to Grade 7 by 2022. One of the most exciting projects undertaken, supported with funding from the Jewish Agency, is a 10-day planned trip to Israel for teachers across all five King David Campuses. These trips, combined with an on-line study course, have shown tangible results and positive changes to education about Israel in our schools.

Our annual 'game lodge' raffle, from which a percentage of the funds raised is allocated to the Samantha Amy Brest Fund, which assists deserving matric learners with their matric dance expenses, was once again a great success. This year, the fantastic prize, of a 3 night stay at Garonga Safari Camp valued at R50 000, was won by alumnus, Gary Swill.

August is National Women's Month in SA, and this year, we hosted a breakfast with social worker and clinical and forensic psychologist, Pam Tudin (KDHSL 1986), who is an international speaker on several social media and child-related topics.

Following the success our alumni events in New York and London to celebrate 70-years of King David Schools, Elliot and I travelled to Australia to celebrate with our many alumni in Sydney and Melbourne. These alumni gatherings, together with the number of wonderful high school reunions that are held throughout the year, offer Davidians the opportunity to reconnect and bring back memories of their days at King David.

Besides growing our Endowment Fund, which will ensure the future sustainability of our Schools, we are proud to report that we have made significant investment in our wonderful community schools. In the past 6 years (2013-2019) R90 million has been spent to upgrade our facilities, develop our teachers and invest in new technology.

With a stagnant economy and rising school fees, which are now a staggering R150 000 for Grades 9-12, we know that we will face an increased demand for financial assistance and many donor challenges. However, we remain positive that we will continue to find the support we have enjoyed from loyal and generous donors, both locally and abroad. We are committed to spending another R90m over the next few years to upgrade and enhance our King David schools, which are a valued community asset and an investment in our Jewish future.

My thanks, as always, to my wonderful team for another successful year. To Elliot Wolf, whose dedication to our Schools and whose passion for Jewish education is legendary, and to our loyal colleagues Gila Glazer, Shana Sassen, Andrea Nussbaum and Janine Levy for all their hard work. Our efforts could not happen without the guidance of our Chairman and all our dedicated Trustees, who give willing of their time, experience and counsel, and to whom I am truly grateful.

Last, but by no means least, my sincerest thanks goes to all our wonderful donors and loyal supporters for their support of our cause, without whom the Foundation would cease to exist and none of this would be possible.

We wish you all a wonderful December break and a happy Chanukah!



Dynamic Davidian

ANDREA KERZNER (KDHSVP 1976)

Andrea Kerzner (KDHSVP 1976) is the founder of Lalela, a non-profit organisation that provides educational arts for at-risk youth to spark creative thinking and awaken the entrepreneurial spirit.

Andrea was born in Durban, South Africa and presently resides in New York City. She holds a Masters Degree in Psychology from Columbia University and an MBA from London Business School. Since 2006 she has combined her education and experiences to focus on humanitarian projects.

Andrea's journey in educational arts began 10 years ago in a remote village in KwaZulu Natal. Sitting on the cement floor surrounded by children, many of whom were orphaned by AIDS and hardened by the effects of poverty, Andrea experienced a transformative moment. The children, previously shut down and quiet, became curious and engaged as they began making masks. One at a time, they donned their masks and began sharing their stories. That day Andrea witnessed the power of creative expression in providing healing and joy.

After working in KwaZulu Natal, Andrea spent time in Eastern Chad working with refugee children from the war in Darfur. Again, she witnessed the restorative power of the arts as hundreds of children lined up to enter a small tent where they painted kites as way of sharing their stories of challenge and hope.

Next Andrea worked in the Democratic Republic of Congo in collaboration with UNICEF where they provided workshops in art and music to child victims of war. These programmes enabled boy and girl soldiers to harness the power of the arts to imagine a new future, one of real possibilities.

“The community of King David was wonderful and of which I have warm memories. My closest friendships were formed during my King David years”

At Lalela, Andrea and her dedicated team provide educational arts to nearly 5000 children in South Africa, Northern Uganda, and Zimbabwe. Through an innovative curriculum developed by a team of educators, artists and an art therapist, Lalela provides students with the tools to map and manifest their dreams and goals.

In addition to her work with Lalela, Andrea sits on the board of the University of Johannesburg's School of Tourism and Hospitality. She is also a member of Tate's Africa Acquisitions Committee.

Andrea has been vegetarian for 31 years and vegan for 4 years. A few years ago, she decided to use her activism in fighting climate change. To that end, she started a fast casual chain of vegan restaurants focusing on America's favourite staple... the burger. This combines her love of and comfort in the hospitality world with her work in the non-profit field. Cattle and dairy account for 51 percent of the planet's carbon footprint. If one can capture customers from the many meat burger chains one could start making a dent in this industry. Andrea teamed up with Amanda Cohen, a Canadian Iron Chef who has a widely acclaimed vegetarian restaurant in New York City called Dirt Candy. Together they are launching the first of these fast casual vegan burger restaurants in Tribeca in November 2019, Lekka Burger, paying homage to Andrea's South African roots. All Lekka Burger merchandise profits will be going to carefully vetted environmental causes.





THE SEARCH IS ON FOR 2019'S DYNAMIC DAVIDIANS

Each year we grow our *Dynamic Davidian* hall of fame by selecting alumni who have truly excelled in their chosen careers and who are making a positive impact on the world around them. Nominate yourself or someone you know who is flying the King David flag high. **Email a biography and picture to sassens@kdsf.org**



MEDICINE

A medical professional at the forefront of research or treatment

ARTS, SPORTS & BUSINESS

A star of the stage, screen, sportsfield or boardroom

PROPERTY

An architect, engineer, developer etc transforming their city's landscape

EDUCATION

A brilliant mind contributing to humanity's knowledge

Did You Know?

The King David Schools' Foundation keeps in touch with over 11,000 alumni around the world!

If you aren't on our database, send us your details so we can update our records
glazerg@kdsf.org



Staying Connected to Kids in the 21st Century

Women's Month Talk by Dynamic Davidian Pam Tudin (KDHSL 1986)

In support of Women's Month in South Africa, the KDSF proudly hosted Dynamic Davidian Pam Tudin (KDHSL 1986) on the King David Linksfield campus.

Pam is social worker and clinical psychologist, forensic psychologist and organisational leadership consultant as well as an international speaker on several social media & child related topics.

Pam addressed over 60 engaged parents, teachers and social workers in the KDL auditorium, with her talk entitled "Fornite, FOMO and Other F Words - Staying connected to your kids in the 21st Century".

The presentation was insightful and informative, as she presented both facts on the development of the teenage brain and how it is wired, as well as detailed explanations of why teenagers behave in certain ways. Her down to earth presentation style, that is equally sincere and funny, made her easy to listen to, and she imparted not only important and relevant information, but also practical tools for dealing with tweens and teens in the 21st century.

The morning was a fitting tribute to the power of women - alumnae, social workers and teachers - and the understanding that as mothers we are backbone of our families, but that dealing with children in 2019 means that sometimes we need help along the way.



A Taste of South Africa in Sydney & Melbourne

On Sunday 1st September, over 200 King David alumni, attended a get-together at Kehillat Kadima, Sydney, in celebration of 70 years of King David Schools.

To commemorate this milestone, Davidians from all around Sydney came together to reminisce about their old school days in South Africa, re-connect with old friends and share experiences and stories from the 'good old days'. In true King David style, Davidians gave of themselves to assist in making the evening a night to remember. Hylton Chilchik (KDHSL 1980) provided the music while Manfred and Tracey Freinkel (KDHSL 1978 and KDHSL 1981 respectively) demonstrated their culinary expertise. Thank you to Denice Meyerson (KDHSL 1975), Robbie Blau (KDHSL 1986), Michael Gotlieb (KDHSL 1991) and Orit Jacobson (KDHSL 1968) who all generously gave of themselves to ensure that everything came together so successfully on the night.

One of the highlights of the evening was entertainment by the hysterical South African comedian, Nik Rabinowitz, specifically brought to Australia by the KDSF. Nik effortlessly roasted the South Africans now living in Oz and proved to be a great hit! To heighten the nostalgia and bring a little 'taste of home', favourite South African treats such as Fizzers, Jelly Tots, Fizz Pops and Sparkles were added to the dessert.

Another highlight of the event was the attendance of 83-year-old Elliot Wolf, who is loved and revered by Davidians around the world. Elliot, together with Raelene hosted the event with the aim of bringing together King David alumni in Sydney and raising much-needed funds for King David Schools.

[To view pictures from this unforgettable night.](#)

[Click Here](#)

To continue the celebrations, Elliot and Raelene made their way to Melbourne where they connected with over 70 alumni at a "mini reunion" celebrating 70 years of King David schools in Melbourne.

Together with our Melbourne alumni, they shared many special memories of King David schools, caught up with old friends, reminisced and enjoyed a 'taste of home' with South African sweets and chocolates.

An enormous thank you to Gavin & Romy Donner (KDHSL 1991 and KDHSL 1994 respectively) for their incredible generosity and hospitality, and Shelley Seligmann (KDHSL 1994) for her commitment to making it happen.



[To view photos from the night taken by Gavin Queit \(KDHSL 1989\),](#)

[Click Here](#)

King David Alumni Feature at Jewish Achiever Awards 2019



The 20th annual Jewish Achiever awards, hosted by the SA Jewish Report and sponsored by ABSA Bank, were held on 8 September and attended by over 700 people, including nominees, past winners, prominent business people, sponsors, media and members of the Jewish Community.

This year's awards were aptly themed **RISE**, as they strive to acknowledge the people who are building South Africa, despite challenging odds.

"They are young entrepreneurs, industrialists investing in new opportunities, business icons, women who have risen to the top of their fields, philanthropists, sportsmen and women, scientists – people who have devoted their lives to the upliftment of society, people who have made

success of themselves internationally but still call South Africa home. The Absa Jewish Achiever awards is a beacon of hope and a glimmer of inspiration for all South Africans".

Howard Sackstein (KDHSL 1982),

Chairperson SA Jewish Report and ABSA Jewish Achiever Awards

Many of the nominees and winners in each category are King David alumni, including our own Executive Director, Raelene Tradonsky (KDHSL 1984), who was nominated for the Europcar Women in Leadership Award. Other Davidians include:

NOMINEES AND WINNERS OF THE ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER AWARDS 2019

THE GLENMORANGIE SIGNET HUMANITARIAN AWARD

David Lewis (KDHSL 1962) – WINNER

ABSA BUSINESS ICON AWARD

Adrian Gore (KDHSL 1981) – WINNER

ABSA PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Nina Cohen (KDHSL 1984) – Nominee

Craig Rod (KDHSL 1988) – Nominee

ABSA BUSINESS AWARD

Liran Assness (KDHSL 1998) – Nominee

Tzivia Levy Herman (KDHSL 1998) – Nominee

Alon Litz (KDHSL 2002) – Nominee

Greg Solomon (KDHSVP 1988) – WINNER

EUROPCAR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Gabi Kuhn Bernstein (KDHSL 1997) – Nominee

Wendy Hendler (KDHSL 1976) – Nominee

Raelene Shapiro Tradonsky (KDHSL 1984) – Nominee

Lauren Pasvol Woolf (KDHSL 1988) – Nominee

KIRSH FAMILY ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Idan Jaan (KDHSL 2008) – Nominee

Jarred Noche (KDHSL 2008) – Nominee

Adi Kaimowitz (KDHSL 1996) – Nominee

Dean Kantor (KDHSL 2004) – Nominee

Avin Levy (KDHSL 1991) – Nominee

Warren Myers (KDHSL 2003) – Nominee

Daniel Popper (KDHSL 2001) – Nominee

Brett Perlstein (KDHSL 2002) – Nominee

Joshua Pelkowitz (KDHSVP 2007) – Nominee

Daniel Pelkowitz (KDHSVP 2007) – Nominee

Michael Gewer (KDHSL 1988) – WINNER

King David Victory Park Reunions

Two reunions were held on the Victory Park campus during September with the KDHSVP Class of 1989 and Class of 1999 holding their 30 and 20 year reunions respectively.

Classmates reconnected and shared beautiful memories of their school days, while Sloppy Joes with Big Corn Bites transported old friends back to the days of sitting against the tuckshop wall in the warm winter sunlight.

Those who weren't there were really missed, and those who were there relished in seeing one another and reconnecting again.



2020

UPCOMING *Reunions*

High school reunions provide the opportunity for alumni from all over the world to reconnect and reminisce about school days. "Sloppy Joe" burgers filled with Big Corn Bites from the tuckshop, together with a walk around the school are always a highlight of the event.

The following reunions have been scheduled for 2020 and 2021. Final dates to be confirmed:

60 Year

KDHSL Class of 1960 – 28 April 2020

50 Year

KDHSL Class of 1970 – 29 April 2020

*KDHSL Class of 1970 – MAJOR REUNION
IN ISRAEL - October 2020*

KDVP Class of 1970 – 20 August 2020

40 Year

KDHSL Class of 1980 – 4th June 2020

KDHSVP Class of 1980 – 13 August 2020

30 Year

KDHSL Class of 1990 – 2 April 2020

KDHSVP Class of 1990 – 21 January 2021

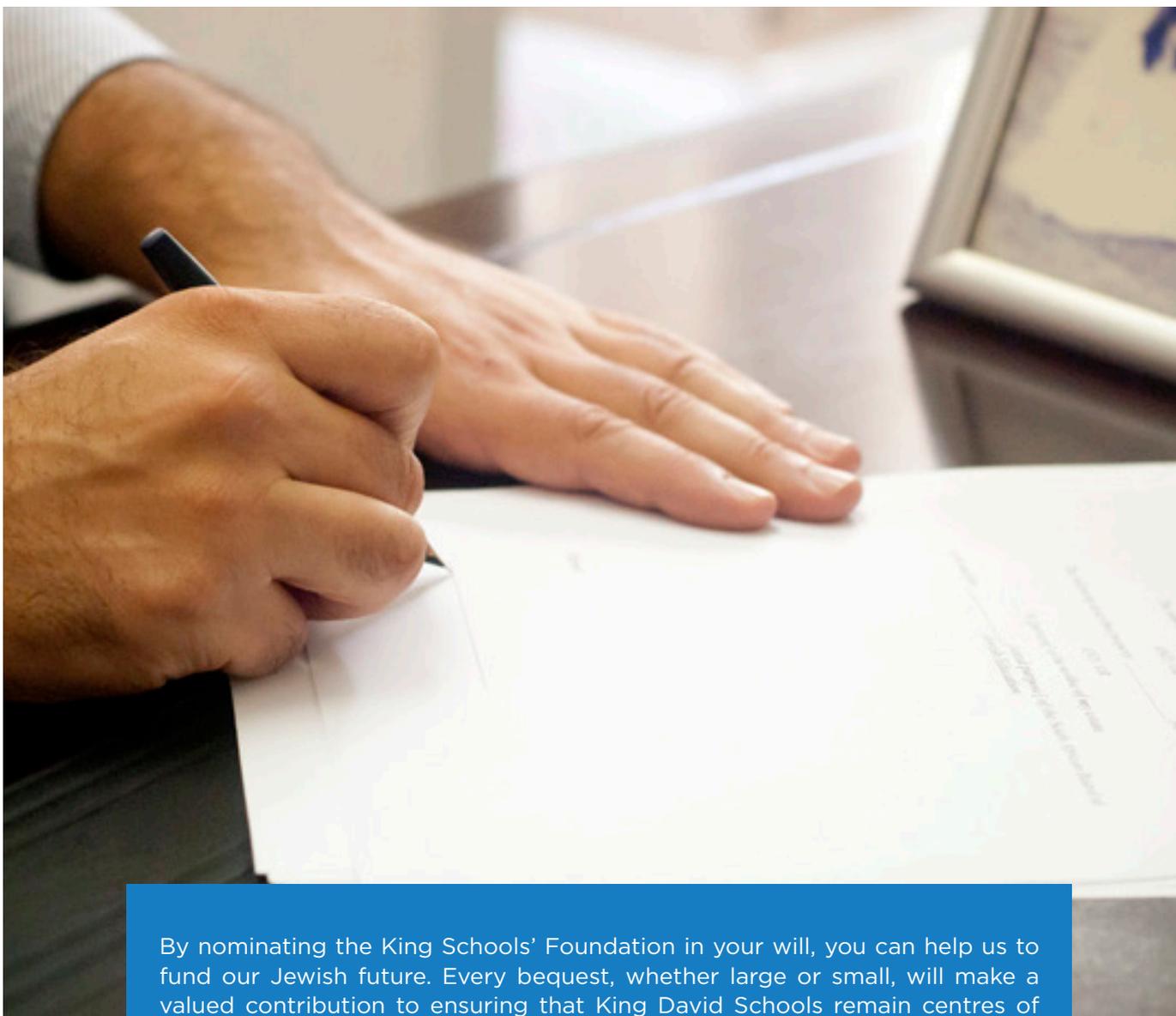
20 Year

KDHSL Class of 2000 – 27 February 2020

KDHSVP Class of 2000 – 27 August 2020

If you are interested in attending a reunion or assisting with your reunion, please contact Gila Glazer on glazerg@kdsf.org

Bequests



By nominating the King Schools' Foundation in your will, you can help us to fund our Jewish future. Every bequest, whether large or small, will make a valued contribution to ensuring that King David Schools remain centres of excellence, while we continue to provide financial assistance to families who cannot afford full school fees.

If you are considering nominating the King David Schools' Foundation as a beneficiary of your estate, please contact the Foundation on 27 11 480 4701

Alternatively please contact

Elliot Wolf wolfe@kdsf.org or
Raelene Tradonsky tradonsky@sabje.co.za

AlumNews

Alumni making headlines



HEDLEY LEWIS (KDHS 1997)

CEO Smile Foundation, was the winner of the Welfare and Civil Society Award at the Global Pan African Awards for Titans Building Nations. These awards are the leading African recognition programme honouring excellence in the public and private sector.

JANICE LEIBOWITZ (KDHS 1985)

a second generation Holocaust Survivor is part of the steering committee of the recently launched Descendants Programme at the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre. The aim and agenda of the Descendants Programme will be determined by the needs of the participants, with the first step being to establish a database of how many descendants there are in South Africa.

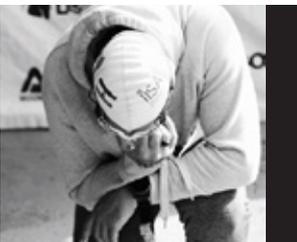


JOANNE JOWELL (KDHS 1992)

is the author of newly released book, Zephany, Two Mothers One Daughter, the story of baby Zephany who was born to parents Celeste & Morne Nurse in April 1997 and then kidnapped three days later only to discover years later that she had grown up within in walking distance from her biological parents.

GENEVIEVE PUTTER (KDHS 1998)

began an Instagram page called The New Normal to assist mothers in dealing with the challenges they face in early motherhood. Putter has taken this into the real world with Cape Town based support groups for new mothers and talks by professionals. She is in the process of training as a post-partum doula where she will be able to help new mothers in their homes.



DR CARMEL GOODMAN (KDHS 1973)

Elite swimmer and well known physician Dr Carmel was featured as the Soul Sport Special Achiever in the July 2019 Soul Sports magazine – the criteria for which include “an individual who has reached an exceptional level of excellence both in sport and in professional life”

NADAV OSSENDRYVVER (KDHS 2014)

Latest Sightings, the pioneering wildlife community started by Nadav, became the first South African YouTube channel to reach a billion views, making it the most popular YouTube channel run from South Africa. It has 1.44-million subscribers, also placing Ossendryver among the global leaders on the platform.



TROY MAYERS (KDHS 1990)

successfully swam an ice mile (1609m) in 1,7 degrees centigrade, in the recent South African Ice Swimming Championships held at Afriski Mountain Resort in Lesotho. The swim, which took him 33 minutes to complete, was ratified by the International Ice Swimming Association, making him the 348th person to achieve this worldwide.



Mazeltovs!

We loving hearing about your simchas and apologise if we have unintentionally left anyone out. If you would like us to include your simcha in the next newsletter, email Shana Sassen on sassens@kdsf.org

Births

- **Barney Girnun** on the birth of a son
- **Brent and Aimee (Sparks) Fuhr** on the birth of a daughter
- **Chad and Jessica (Schneiderman) Jacobs** on the birth of a daughter
- **Craig and Shevon Lurie** on the birth of a son
- **Daryn and Danielle (Halfon) Mofsowitz** on the birth of a son
- **Dean and Jenna (Unger) Steinberg** on the birth of a daughter
- **Dean and Lauri (Gordon) Suntup** on the birth of a daughter
- **Gary and Courtneigh (Cloud) Bernstein** on the birth of a son
- **Jason and Hayley (Sewitz) Zetzer** on the birth of a daughter
- **Jonathan and Natalie Davis** on the birth of a son
- **Lance and Talya Josset Kier** on the birth of a son
- **Lior and Gina (Posner) Chernick** on the birth of a son
- **Michael and Lee-anne (Poswell) Lewis** on the birth of a daughter
- **Ron and Linda Nathan** on the birth of a son
- **Saul and Angela (Myer) Weiner** on the birth of a daughter
- **Selwyn and Chelsey (Dribbin) Stein** on the birth of a daughter
- **Trevor and Tanya (Bellon) Gordon** on the birth of a daughter



Jason and Hayley Sevitz



Lauri Suntup



Natalie and Jonathan Davis



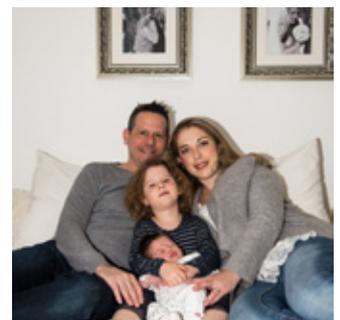
Ron Nathan



Selwyn & Chelsey Stein



Talya Josset Kier



Tanya & Trevor Gordon

Engagements

- Andrew Tim and Kari Amler
- Benji Meltzer and Gabi Lasker
- Cliffy Gruber and Daniella Flaum
- Daniel Glober and Chanel Bloom
- Dean Kovacs and Jordan Lorge
- Gavin Sharp and Melissa Koffler
- Gil Reouveni and Ronit Berger
- Jarred Angel and Steffani Ovadia
- Justin Berman and Tanna Behrmann
- Leigh Weinberg and Micaela Gruzin
- Max Furman and Courtney Fuhr
- Ryan Fransman and Megan Gibbons
- Warren Narotzky and Michelle Katz
- Yair Mark and Nerissa Bloch



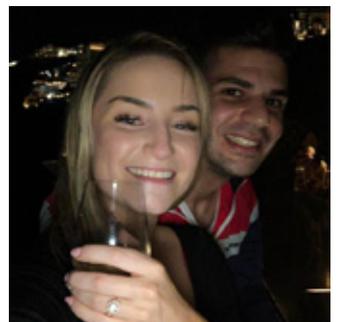
Justin Berman and Tanna Behrmann



Gavin Sharp and Melissa Koffler



Leigh Weinberg and Micaela Gruzin



Gil Reouveni and Ronit Berger



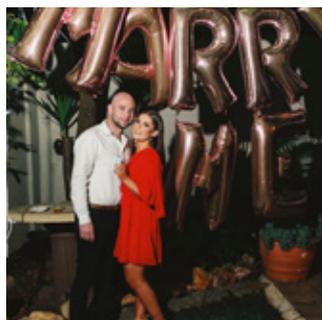
Andrew Tim and Kari Amler



Ryan Fransman and Megan Gibbons



Jarred Angel and Steffani Ovadia



Dean Kovacs and Jordan Lorge

Marriages

- Alon and Jaxx (Kotzen) Bedell
- Ariye and Melissa (Osher) Mahdeb
- Chadd and Tarryn (Pencharz) Kaufmann
- Daniel and Laurie (Colman) Green
- Jayden and Hayley (Tooch) Cohen
- Josh and Kerri Lutz Kaplan
- Keith and Destiny Miller
- Neil and Kim (Brouze) Elison
- Ryan and Lital (Meiri) Laing
- Steven and Tali (Arbel) Bark



Chadd and Tarryn Kaufmann



Ariye and Melissa Mahdeb



Steven and Tali Bark

Please email Shana Sassen on sassens@kdsf.org with all your simcha details and photos
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