

DAVIDIAN UPDATE



THE KDSF ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



DYNAMIC DAVIDIAN
Davidah Koseff (KDHS 1979)



ALUMNEWS
Alumni making headlines



MAZELTOVS!
Births
Engagements
Marriages

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From the Wolf's Mouth

- Beacons of Hope and Inspiration



In a world that is constantly battling with endless violence, hostility, hatred and the notion of 'them and us', let us find salvation and take some comfort in the inspirational lives of those whose example we should all aspire to emulate.

Recently in South Africa, we were all saddened by the passing of Johnny Clegg, the musical maestro and genius who inspired millions around the world with his sincere and dedicated glimpse into the world of the underprivileged and with a vision in which different cultures could find a way to transcend their differences. Clegg's music created an experience in which contrasting societies coalesced and created a prophecy for the greater good of all people, regardless of their backgrounds. Johnny Clegg, whom he himself described as a white Zulu and a secular Jew, has passed on, but his albums of Jaluka and Savuka remain with their message that there is strength in unity and in cherishing our common humanity.

Another inspiring example is one certainly less universal but much closer to home with strong KD links. Many generations of Linksfield students will remember with great affection the three generations of one family who taught with distinction at KDHS Linksfield - Mr Morrison, Mrs June Barclay (Deputy Principal) and Diane Barclay. They were all wonderful teachers and although not Jewish, are certainly precious threads in the rich tapestry of KDHS history. June emigrated to New Zealand to join her daughters, Diane and Susan in Auckland. Recently I received the wonderful news that Mark Seddon, June's grandson and Susan's son, had submitted an essay in a competition under the auspices of the United Nations to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and had won the competition. Mark was invited to Wellington where he delivered his essay as a speech to the New Zealand parliament and to receive his award. For me and the thousands of Davidians who remember this wonderful family, this recognition is so special, since it so clearly indicates the moral lesson and responsibility for identifying with others and sharing in their tragedy. Mark Seddon, we salute you as a fourth generation Davidian!

Let me conclude with the words of John Donne, the famous English poet, who four hundred years ago wrote the time-honoured poem that commences with the familiar words *no man is an island entire of itself*. The poem encourages dialogue and understanding between individuals, societies and nations. His words *any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind* is certainly a message that our troubled world needs to take to heart, now more than ever before.

Best wishes.
Elliot Wolf



Dynamic Davidian

DAVIDAH KOSEFF (KDHSL 1979)

Davidah Koseff is a Physiotherapist and the Clinic Manager at Irgun Nehei Zahal, a facility that offers sport and cultural activities to disabled veterans and their families. She opened the clinic in 1996 and today they are a staff of seven physios and one occupational therapist serving over 180 patients every month.

After school, Davidah received a BSc in physiotherapy at WITS University. While at university, she continued to study music studies privately (she had done music as a 7th subject for matric at King David) and received a teacher's diploma from Trinity College in London.

After graduating from WITS she enrolled at the University of the Pacific in Stockton California, where she received a Masters degree in Music Therapy in 1987. In 1990 she made Aliya to Jerusalem where she currently lives.

While working as a physio at Hadassa Hospital, specializing in rehabilitation, she began working part time at a physiotherapy clinic of Bet Halochem - an organization that caters specifically to the needs of disabled veterans. Today she is the Clinic Manager.

In 2002, Davidah received a second Masters degree in rehabilitation specializing in gait analysis and the biomechanics of orthotics and prosthetics sciences from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland and consults for an orthotics company that makes custom-made orthotics / leg braces for adults and children.

In 2008, Davidah joined the medical team that accompanied the Israel Paralympic Athletes to the games in Beijing. She served as the physiotherapist for the Israeli National Disabled Badminton team, treating athletes in Israel and accompanying them on their travels to international competitions.

After Beijing, she joined the medical board of the Israel Paralympic Committee and the Israel Sport Association for the Disabled, which she has been serving on ever since. Davidah headed the medical team of the Israel Paralympic Committee to the games in both London in 2012 and in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, and will be accompanying them to the Tokyo Games in 2020.

"I have very fond memories of the 14 years I spent at King David from nursery school all the way to Matric. The rich grounding in Jewish pride is what brought me to live here in Jerusalem.

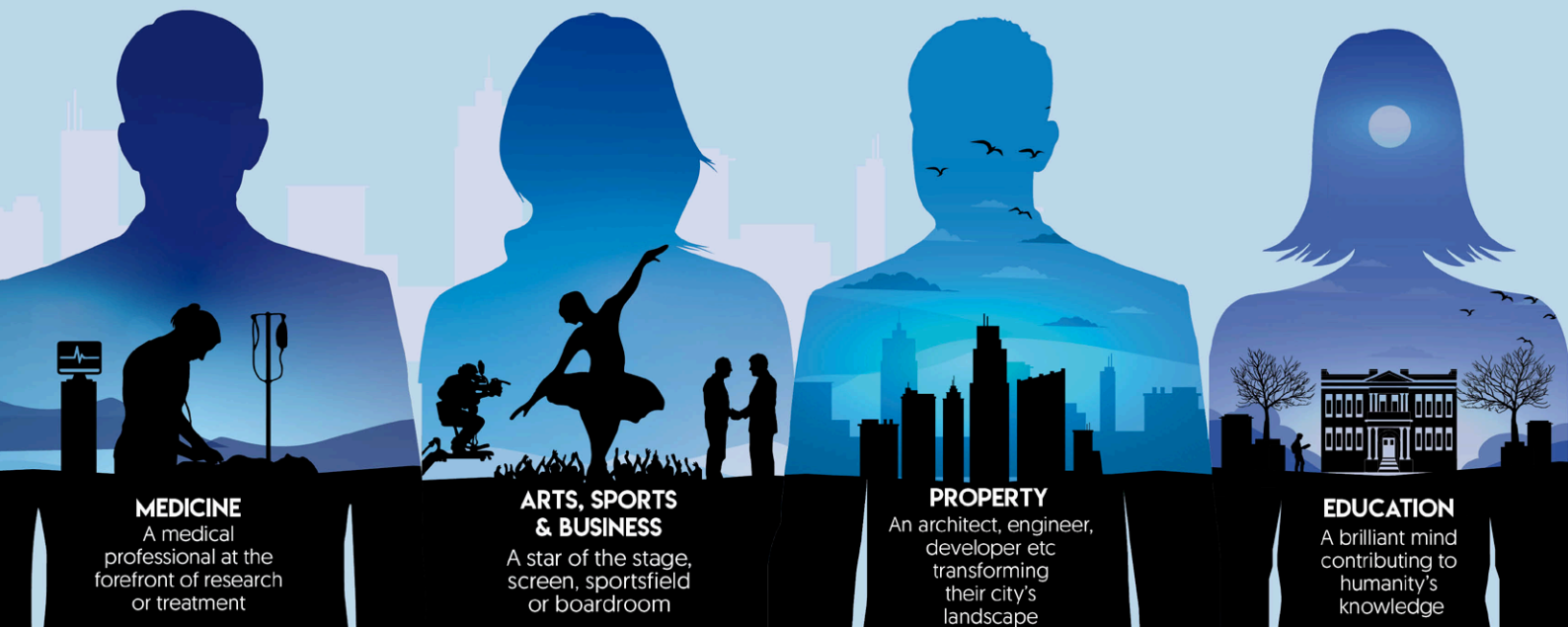
So many amazing teachers influenced me along the way. I think the three most influential teachers were Mrs Barclay who made me believe that I could do maths even though some of the time my grades said different. Keith Maker who reinforced my love for literature and gave me so many opportunities to perform on stage. Last, but by no means least - Mr Elliot Wolf. He was more than a headmaster. He was also my Latin teacher for a year. He was always interested in what I was doing and encouraged me along the way".

"I have very fond memories of the 14 years I spent at King David from nursery school all the way to Matric."



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

King David is coming to Sydney!

Following the success of the celebration in New York and London in 2018, the KDSF will be visiting Sydney to celebrate 70 incredible years of King David schools with our Australian alumni.

If you are an alumni living in Australia, join us for a night of laughter and reconnecting as we celebrate our 7-decade legacy, with entertainment by Nik Rabinowitz and music by Hylton Chilchik (KDHSL 1980).

Date: Sunday 1st September

Time: 6PM

Venue: Kehillat Kadimah, 666 Old South Head Road, Rose Bay

Booking Essential:
www.ticketzone.co.za/kdsf

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE 70 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF KING DAVID SCHOOLS

Join all King Davidians living in Australia for an evening of fun, laughter and reconnection, as we celebrate 7 decades of King David Schools.

Be entertained by Africa's funniest Jew,

Nik Rabinowitz.

Music by Hylton Chilchik.

DATE Sunday 1 September
 TIME 18h00
 VENUE Kehillat Kadimah
 666 Old South Head Road
 Rose Bay, Sydney
 DRESS Casual
 COST \$70 donation to King David Schools' Foundation
 (equivalent to R720)
 Light dinner included

Book on www.ticketzone.co.za/kdsf



King David Schools'
Foundation



If you can't make it to Sydney, we will see you in Melbourne ...!

In response to the many alumni living in Melbourne who would love to connect but can't make it to Sydney, Elliot and Raelene will be coming to Melbourne.

Join them for a night of reminiscing and reconnecting as we celebrate 70 years of King David Schools in Melbourne.

Date: Tuesday 3rd September

Time: 7:45 for 8pm start

Venue: private Residence in Caulfield North for Coffee and Cake

RSVP: sassens@kdsf.org
(Address to be supplied on RSVP)

A NIGHT TO CELEBRATE 70 INCREDIBLE YEARS OF KING DAVID SCHOOLS

You couldn't get to Sydney so we are coming to you!

Join Elliot Wolf and Raelene Tradonsky for an evening of fun, laughter and reconnection as we celebrate 7 decades of King David Schools in **MELBOURNE**.

DATE	Tuesday 3rd September
TIME	7:45 for 8pm start
VENUE	Private Residence in Caulfield North Coffee and Cake
RSVP	sassens@kdsf.org (Address to follow on RSVP)

Optional donation to KDSF payable on www.kdsf.org or www.walletdoc.com/pay/kdsf



Mazeltoy!

Gary Swil

— On winning a 3 night
getaway at Garonga
Safari Camp —

— Valued at over
R 60 000 —

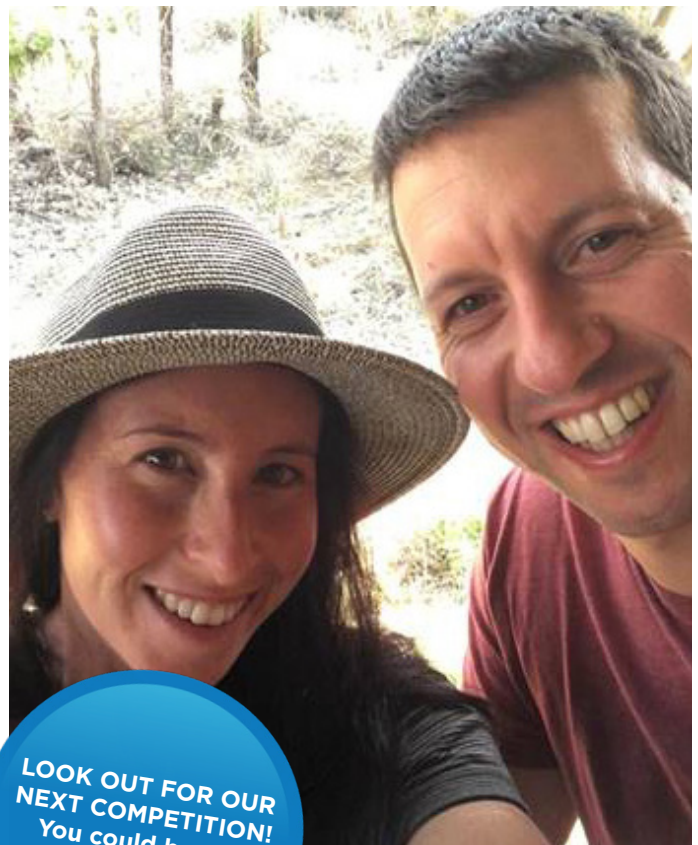


Mazeltoy to Gary Swil - the lucky winner of the bush getaway to Little Garonga in the Makalali Conservancy, in the Greater Kruger National Park.

Gary's incredible prize includes a 3-night getaway for two adults to a private villa at Little Garonga, all meals and local beverages, all game drives and bush walks, and a sleep out and bush bath under the stars.

As in previous years, the prize was generously donated, resulting in all proceeds from the successful competition going directly to the KDSF.

To verify the draw was fair, independent auditor, Darryl Sklar audited the competition and selected the winning ticket in the presence of four employees from the SA National Lottery Board.



**LOOK OUT FOR OUR
NEXT COMPETITION!**
You could be our
next lucky winner



Oh What a Night!

KDL Class of 1999 Reunion – Andy Nussbaum (KDHSL 1999)

Wednesday 17th April 2019 brought the Class of 1999 back to school for their 20-year school reunion!

We thoroughly enjoyed the matric dance video, igniting past experiences and bringing memories back to life.

Our taste buds were ignited by Sloppy Joes and Big Korn Bites, reminding us of breaks at the school tuckshop, while background music brought back the groove from our school days.

Those who were able to attend stayed long into the evening catching up on 20 years of life's news, from academic and professional success, lessons gained from life experiences, to personal achievements and so much more.

Those present connected as if it was 1999 and felt the absence of those not able to attend the event – Oh What a Night.

Back to the Future!

KDL Class of 1989 Reunion – Rob Firer (KDHSL 1989)

When you think 80s, you think shoulder pads, perms and Duran Duran... It was just before the release of Mandela and the arrival of cellphone technology in South Africa ... a different backdrop to the South Africa we live in today. The Class of '89 Thirty Year Reunion was held on Lag ba'Omer, which certainly added fire to the event along with the good old tuck shop Sloppy Joes, a bar and flame throwers.

Of the 214 students from the Class of '89, the attendance was great, and we were lucky enough to have a few of our fellow students come from overseas, some of whom we hadn't seen in over 20 years!

We caught up, and formally shared stories from back then, most notable being the Geography tour of 1988. *Was'nt that river gin clear*

Despite the different directions we have all taken in life, it is simply amazing to reconnect with your high school friends!

A highlight of the event was having Mr Wolf at the event who reminded us of our connection & roots to King David.

As the Class of '89 we made a commitment to raise R140 000, the cost of one year's tuition for matric at King David. We have reached this fundraising target and will continue to raise more towards to King David Schools' Foundation, which provides an invaluable "service" to those in need, particularly given the difficult economic times that we face today.

The next morning many of us attended the high school assembly, which was a revelation in terms of professionalism and the use of technology. It made us realise what a privilege it is to attend KDL.

Thank you to the KDSF for putting the event together.

See you in 10 years!



Fifty Years Later!

KDL Class of 1969 Reunion – Eric Stillerman (KDHSL 1969)



The Class of '69 50th year school reunion took place on the 9th May this year. It was a fun get-together at the school, a trip down memory lane with an exciting celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut at the High School assembly followed by refreshments at the Memorabilia Centre Room.

Reconnecting with schoolmates was heart-warming – everyone looking good, sharing stories and laughs with the same naughty spirit as in school days. It seemed like the only thing that was different was 50 years more life experience, with most klibing nachas from their grandchildren.

The most memorable aspect for me were the solemn and impressive Yom HaZikaron Remembrance Service followed by the festive Yom Ha'atzmaut

Celebrations, professionally presented by the KDL high school students, with moving speeches, vibey Israeli music and an impressive dance group.

The experience reminded us of the privilege of our King David education, with the desire to keep in touch with friends and the school through newsletters, ongoing events, and contributing to the KDSF to assist many children in receiving the same experiences of a KD Jewish education that we enjoyed.

Many thanks to the King David Schools' Foundation for hosting us.

2019

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.

40 Year *King David Linksfield Class of 1979*

Thursday 3rd October - Party

Friday 4th October - School assembly

30 Year *King David Victory Park Class of 1989*

Thursday 5th September

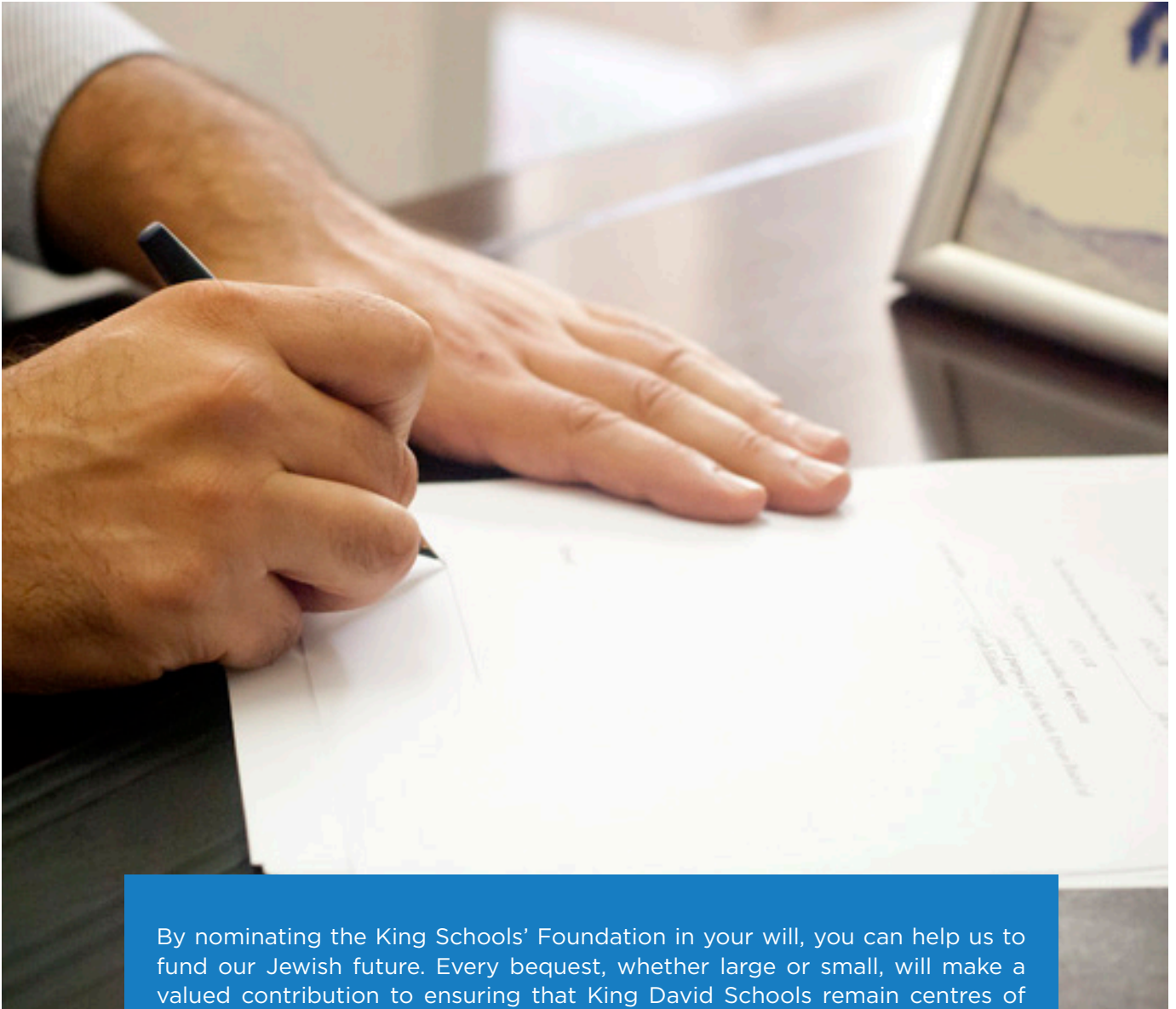
20 Year *King David Victory Park Class of 1999*

Thursday 12th September

The KDSF requires a reunion committee made up of members of the class to be involved.

Please contact Gila Glazer on glazerg@kdsf.org should you wish to assist with your reunion or if you have any queries.

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 tradonskyr@sabje.co.za

AlumNews

Alumni making headlines



TALIA SMITH (KDHS 2014)

a final year film student at New York University (NYU), was awarded an esteemed producers grant to produce her movie Umama, given to only two films selected by NYU for production. Umama, an ode to the woman who helped to raise Talia and her siblings, is set to become the university's first South African based undergraduate film, and will be submitted to international film festivals such as the Cannes Film Festival, the Student Academy Awards at the Oscars and the First Run Film Festival.



DEAN ISRAELITE (KDHS 2002)

has been chosen by Amblin Entertainment (a production company founded by Steven Spielberg) to write and direct a supernatural thriller Minotaur, which will be set in Johannesburg.

KEVIN FRIEDMAN

Former Davidian Kevin was commissioned to design a piece of Jewellery for an anonymous statesman 12 years ago. He recently came across a picture of the brooch he designed being worn by Queen Elizabeth II

DR MARLENE BEHRMANN (KDHS 1976)

was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in recognition of her distinguished and continuing achievements in original research in the cognitive neuroscience of visual perception, in which she is widely considered one of the foremost experts.



BONITA MEYERSFELD (KDHS 1993)

was made a Knight of the National Order of Merit by France, by the French ambassador to South Africa, for the work she has done addressing gender based violence in South Africa. The knighthood is awarded by the President of France to French citizens and foreign nationals for distinguished achievements such as "acts of devotion, bravery, generosity, or a measurable commitment to serving others."

SEGALIT OZ (KDHS 1987)

received a promotion to Senior Forensic Specialist with the Beverly Hills Police Depart in March 2019, enabling her to perform crime scene processing and expert testimony in court cases.

PROFESSOR SHIRLI GILBERT'S (KDHS 1992)

monograph From Things Lost: Forgotten Letters and the Legacy of the Holocaust, Wayne State University Press, 2017 has been selected for special mention by the British Association for Jewish Studies (BAJS) Book Prize Committee. Professor Gilbert will accept the award at the BAJS annual conference reception, which will take place 23 July in Oxford, UK.



PROF. DAVID MEDALIE (KDHS 1980)

received a prestigious award from the National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS) for "Recognition" - an anthology of South African short stories he edited and introduced, which was published in 2017 by the Wits University Press. The anthology won in the category of Best Fiction: Edited Volume.

LEX BAYER (KDHS 1996)

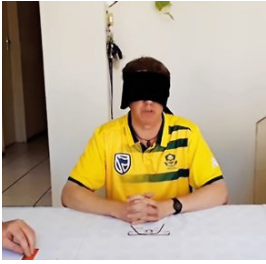
CEO of Starship Technologies was featured in the San Francisco Business Times. Starship became the first robotics team to begin operating regularly in public spaces, without the use of safety drivers. Their robots explore the world on their own, operating every day in several cities around the world, delivering people their dinner, parcels and groceries.



DOV GIRNUN (KDHS 1996)

appeared on the front cover of entrepreneurial online mag - Thriving - for his amazing success story of selling clothes from the back of his car to providing R1 Billion capital to retail SME's in South Africa.





MICHAEL ABRAHAMSON (KDHS 1985)

Professional mentalist and memory expert recently broke the world record by recalling 1500 digits of Pi in four minutes and seven seconds, blindfolded in front of four independent judges, 53 seconds faster than his target.

DANIEL POPPER (KDHS 2001)

created the design and installation of the campground animal sculptures, lady vine and tripolee faces at the Electric Forest Music Festival 2019 in Michigan. His multidisciplinary art includes interactive art, puppetry, architecture in public spaces, stage design, installation art, interior design and theatre, with a growing interest in merging sculpture with electronic music, LED and Projection Mapping.



COLIN SCHACHAT (KDHS 1979)

performed with Bocelli and Maestro Carlo Bernini at Forte Dei Marme Italy during July.



BRETT PERLSTEIN (KDHS 2002)

Managing Director and Founder of SearchKings Africa, has been nominated as one of the SAICA CA(SA) 2019 Top 35-Under-35 finalists, and is featured in Accounting SA Magazine August 2019.

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

- **Alan and Dale (Gomer) Kopping**
- **Alon and Lisa Meyerov** on the birth of a son
- **Anthony and Rony (Ezerzer) Muller** on the birth of a daughter
- **Anthony and Sharona Smith** on the birth of a twin boy and girl
- **Brad and Mandi (Bachmann) Berman** on the birth of a daughter
- **Benjamin and Yael (Sneifer) Frydman** on the birth of a daughter
- **Brett and Tamsyn (Gordon) Levitas** on the birth of a daughter
- **Chad and Jessica (Schneiderman) Jacobs** on the birth of a daughter
- **Dale and Nicole (Courtney) Strime** on the birth of a daughter
- **Daniel and Carolyn (Shenker) Page** on the birth of a son
- **Dean and Jenna (Ungar) Steinberg** on the birth of a daughter
- **Doron and Nadine (Brook) Kur** on the birth of a son
- **Farrel and Jaclyn (Baigel) Strul** on the birth of a daughter
- **Gary and Emma Mirkin** on the birth of a son
- **Glen and Jaimee (Shapiro) Kier** on the birth of a son
- **Guy and Moran (Ezerzer) Orlik** on the birth of a daughter
- **Jacques and Kelli (Saber) Talpert** on the birth of a son
- **Jonathan and Jhana (Searll) Weltman** on the birth of a daughter
- **Jonathan Kaplan** on the birth of twin girls

- **Justin and Angela Cohen** on the birth of a son
- **Marc and Jayde (Goldman) Best** on the birth of a son
- **Marc and Pamela (Fluxman) Defries** on the birth of a twin boy and girl
- **Marc and Yael (Comaroff) Rosen** on the birth of a son
- **Mark and Talia (Lacob) Weinberg** on the birth of a daughter
- **Michael and Robyn (Orelowitz) Shapiro** on the birth of a daughter
- **Ran and Danielle Neuner** on the birth of a son
- **Ricky and Faye (Schneider) Joseph** on the birth of a son
- **Robin and Gila (Berman) Nussbaum** on the birth of a daughter
- **Terence and Kerri (Livingstone) Marks** on the birth of a daughter
- **Tyrone and Jen Lasarow** on the birth of a daughter



Jonathan Kaplan



Ricky and Faye (Schneider) Joseph



Alan and Dale (Gomer) Kopping



Mark Weinberg

Engagements

- Adam Heynes and Lior Ezerzer
- Daniel Bulafkin and Kelly Chatzkelowitz.
- Dean Kovacs and Jordan Lorge
- Jarred Solomon and Xenia Kholina.
- Jevon Beukes and Nikki Grupel
- Kyle Solarsh and Chantal Kassuto.
- Ryan Allan Ohmert and Amy Rudenberg
- Saul Symanowitz and Nicole Etkind
- Todd Kirschen and Jaclyn Gaylis



Jevon Beukes and Nikki Grupel



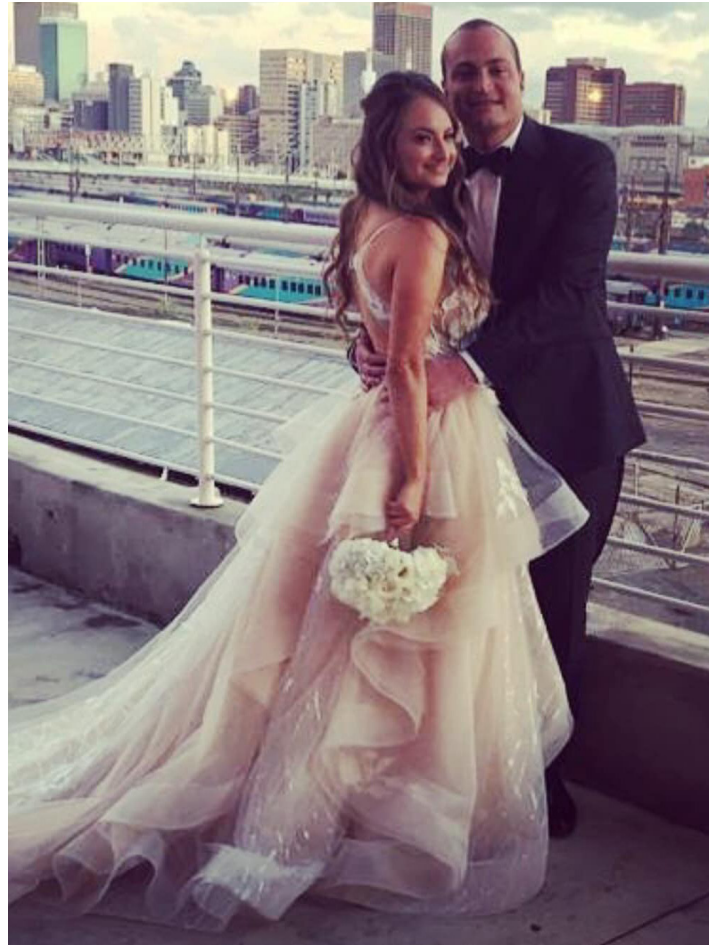
Jarred Solomon and Xenia Kholina



Saul Symanowitz and Nicole Etkind

Marriages

- Adam and Roxy (Kopping) Affuta
- Ari Zadikov and Nicole Hackner
- Dani and Donna (Broude) Kedar
- Dean and Danielle (Bentel) Gluckman
- Gilad and Etana (Lab) Even-Tov
- Jonty and Aurelie (Ascoli) Angel
- Kurt and Gabriella (Widgerow) Van Dyke
- Michael and Calli (Creswick) Kaftel
- Ryan and Sherelee (Ramsamy) Bensimon
- Steven and Cayla (Urdang) Smilkstein
- Trevor and Lee-Anne (Magidson) Levy
- Warren and Roxi (Elison) Becker



Michael and Calli (Creswick) Kaftel



Gilad and Etana (Lab) Even-Tov



Kurt and Gabriella (Widgerow) Van Dyke

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