



**M**r. Kurt Rothschild, President of World Mizrahi, rises each day at 6 am, attends morning services, studies *Daf Yomi* and, until COVID-19, headed to his office at World Mizrahi headquarters in the center of Jerusalem. He would work until 4:30 pm, when he returned home to his wife Edith.

What is most extraordinary about this, is that Mr. Rothschild is about to celebrate his 100th birthday!

We wanted to learn more about this astonishing man and are honored to share with you a little of what we discovered:

**You and your wife made aliyah in your 90s. Why?**

It's a mixture of wanting to be here, identifying with our people, our country, and ending our lives, at some point, here in Israel. I was born in Germany almost 100 years ago and then forced out, first to England, then Canada, and after 75 years in Canada, my wife and I are now here. We have children here, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and every single day we are so grateful we made this choice.

Israel is the center of the world. A small country, embattled from all sides and in world news almost every day. To walk the streets of Jerusalem is a special privilege, and really unbelievable how we – threatened by Iran, Syria, the other Arab countries, the Palestinians – managed to build up a country in such a remarkable, incredible way.

**You live such a busy life. How do you do it all at your age?**

*Ribono Shel Olam* gives me strength. It is a tremendous privilege to reach such an extreme age. The fact I am still around obliges me to give my life meaning. A person who lives his life with meaning, even if G-d forbid he dies at a young age, leaves the world with a sense of fullness and appreciation.

**Do you have any other words of wisdom to share with our readers?**

We live in an ongoing miracle, a miracle the generations before us could not even imagine. I walk the streets of Jerusalem today and see men, women and children simply walking the streets. These people do not know and do not understand what antisemitism is. We decide who can enter the country, who is worthy, who meets the criteria. Criteria can be debated, but the very fact the government and power are in the hands of Jews is a miracle.

When you get a second chance at life, you realize how important it is, so you try and endow it with meaning. You never know what will happen. We all get opportunities, every day, without even realizing it.

As long as G-d allows it, I will continue to act. Donating and doing are key to longevity. We all have the ability to give something: money, time or talent. My main motivation to do and give was the memory of the Holocaust. G-d 'got the ball rolling' so that I had the opportunity to live in Canada during the war. This is the kind of debt you must repay.

I came to the conclusion that there is no better way to repay this debt than to ensure the continuity of the Jewish people – whether in Israel or outside – through education and *chesed* towards those who need it.

# Kurt Rothschild

— A T —

# 100

CELEBRATING THE  
INCREIBLE CENTENARIAN

This ideal grows stronger as you live longer. When you reach the ninth decade – or in my case the 10th – the ideal intensifies through the experience and wisdom one has acquired. Although it is not easy to climb the stairs to the office every morning, I am lucky that I continue to try and succeed.

*Join us in wishing  
Mr. Kurt Rothschild  
a very happy birthday!*