



Nikki Michel and Lisa Strous



Fred Gershberg



Janice Christie & Katie Narunsky

## From the Development Office



**Welcome to the first 2014 edition of our Alumni newsletter which we hope you enjoy reading. We look forward to hearing your news!**

Did you know we now have an Emanuel Alumni Facebook page? Here is the link to join:

[www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/)

Our Facebook page was created to foster a sense of community among our former students and to keep the *ruach* and spirit of the

School alive long after your days at School have passed. We encourage you to read this page and post your contributions!

### Second generation and going strong

It is so exciting to know that 20 Emanuel alumni, including three from our first ever Year 12 graduating year, the Class of 1989, are now parents of children at our School. Janice (Narunsky) Christie (Class of 1989), our first Head Madricha, has two children here. Her son Declan is in Year K, having spent the past two years at Kornmehl Centre Pre-school and step-daughter Jade has just started in Year 9; Katie (Levenson) Narunsky (Class of 1989) has her three children at the School – Madison in Year K, Jake in Year 4 and Alexa in Year 7, whilst Claudia Maman (Class of 1989) has her son Ethan De Milo in Year 6OC.

Emanuel School has come of age with 32 second-generation Emanuel students at the School, ranging from those in Kornmehl Centre Pre-school to Year 9. It was their grandparents who chose our wonderful School to educate their own children and now those children are parents here!

Five of the children are currently enrolled at Kornmehl Pre-school, including first cousins Jemma Michel and Kayla Strous whose mums, twins Nikki Michel and Lisa Strous, are from the Class of 1995. Jemma's brother Koby is now in Year 1. Their grandfather, Eddie Ross was President of the School Board from 1998 to 2000. Our youngest alumni parent is Ari Shammay (Class of 2002) whose son, Isaac is in his second year at Kornmehl.

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Ari Shammay

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**Emanuel School Old Scholars' Association (ESOSA) is now known as Emanuel School Alumni (ESA)**

From the Development Office  
(CONTINUED)

Enrolled in Year K this year is Emma Butt, whose Mum, Sam (Finger) is from the Class of 1998. Emma's grandfather, Michael Finger was on the Founding Board of the School.

As our student records from the early days of Emanuel School are incomplete, we may have missed some alumni who are now also parents here. Please let me know if you think this is the case for you.

If you are an alumnus with children here now, we would love to share old photos from your School days here, and also include photos of you and your children now. Please send your photos and any other news you would like to share, to [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

**Sonia Newell – Development Officer.**



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni of Emanuel School,

This year began with the excitement of the removal of our D-Block demountable

building and the start of the construction of the new four-level, multi-purpose building. All the planning and preparation that had been done at the end of 2013 and over the holidays ensured that we were ready for the reduced space and the whole School got used to working around the closed-off area very quickly. At the time of writing, the excavation is still underway and we are looking forward to seeing the building emerge from the depths of the hole. The progress of the building is being 'supervised' from the balconies of the Brender-Moss by some of our very interested students and staff.

This term we were very pleased to take delivery of our new bus, a result of the fund-raising efforts of the Parents & Friends over the past two years. This 25-seater will be a very convenient way of moving groups of our students around, for excursions, sporting events and other activities.

EActive began this year in the High School and there is a wide range of activities on offer for students outside school hours, such as the usual representative sports (touch, basketball, tennis, soccer, futsal etc), along with the more recreational activities such as paddle boarding, surfing, kayaking, parkour and yoga. EActive has been very popular since its inception, with close to 300 activities chosen

by students each term. We are also working on increasing the sporting and activity options for our Primary School students, and have installed a running track at the School, along the inside of the Avoca Street fence, as another facility that students can use to help them keep fit.

Visitors to our School will notice our new sculptures next to 'Waxman Drive'. The statues represent our reason for being here, our students. There is a tall young man who is close to the end of his school education, representing one of you, an Emanuel School graduate, and a young girl who is still in Primary School, representing a student who is on the journey towards adulthood. Dressed in school uniform they hold

a *havdallah* candle and a *Kiddush* cup, which are part of the *Havdallah* ceremony that marks the end of *Shabbat* and the start of the new week. All together our new sculptures symbolise our hope and faith in the next generation of young people who are the future of Australia and the Jewish people. We are very grateful to well-known local sculptors Gillie and Marc, and to Ms Greta Silvers, for their very generous donations to make our new sculptures a reality.

Many of our EActive coaches are ex-students and we also have a wonderful band of Emanuel graduates who come to help out at the Homework Help sessions after school. We are very pleased to continue our connections with our past students and welcome your ongoing involvement and interest in the School. I hope that you are all well and happy and that we see you at the School in the near future.

Best wishes

**Anne Hastings, Principal**



Have some news to share?... Send us the details and share it with your fellow Alumni



# Gesher Community Connections



The *Gesher* Committee continues to look at ways to build bridges to ALL *Gesher* members (alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and friends, past staff, and anyone else with an interest in the School). We have already held some very successful events this year, including our inaugural Golf Day (Nine and Dine) at Bonnie Doon in February. We are planning another golf day later in the year and hope to see more alumni play in that next event on 13 November 2014. We also launched our Alumni Facebook page earlier in the year, and we encourage you, our alumni, to use this forum as a means of connecting with your peers and posting your "news"!

The *Gesher* committee is very excited about a number of new Mentoring programs we have in train. We believe there is a great deal of value and experience amongst the *Gesher* community that can be leveraged by our current students. These programs include "Emanuel Zone" where mentors from our *Gesher* community,

including alumni, will work with groups of students from Years 10 to 12 to share their learnings across key themes.

We are also focusing on Community events as a means to raise the School's profile, build community links and potentially raise funds for charity. To this end, we have entered a team for this year's City2Surf on Sunday 10 August and monies raised will go to Jewish House. Each team member will receive an exclusive Emanuel School t-shirt to wear. To join our team, named Emanuel School Community, (password is ES2014), simply register at [www.city2surf.com.au](http://www.city2surf.com.au). If you have already entered, you can still be part of our team by emailing [mfavero@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mfavero@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au).

It is great to see our alumni return to the School campus to volunteer for many School based activities – we thank you for doing so, and we look forward to your continued involvement with our Emanuel School Community.

**Daniel Knoll,**  
*Board member and Gesher Committee Chairperson*



## Staying in Touch

### Engagements:

- Leigh Golombick ('01) and Ram Venkat (1)
- Terri Milunsky ('01) and Seb Ruiz (2)
- Natalie Glance ('03) and David Manning (3)
- Shaun Greenblo ('03) and Jana Zurawlenko
- Georgia Snow ('04) and Danny Stern ('04) (4)
- Ariane Boxall ('06) and Asher Lazar (5)
- Lawrence Lanesman ('09) and Izzy Christowski



### Weddings:

- Alexis (Lexi) Feitelson ('01) and Darryn Teperson – 29 December 2013
- Kevin Jankelowitz ('01) and Nikki Dunn – 18 March 2014, in Koh Samui, Thailand
- Aviva Locker ('02) and Aaron Kippax – 16 June 2014
- Jonathon Ben Haim ('03) and Mila Goldman – 11 June 2014, Tel Aviv, Israel
- Rebecca Kummerfeld ('03) and Ian Oosterhoff – 31 December 2013 (6)
- Jamie Levien ('03) and Jessica Davey – 17 December 2013 (7) Although Jamie only attended Emanuel School for a few years, he has stayed in touch with many of the friends he made here at School and he attended the Class of 2003 10 year reunion last November.
- Keri Gaddin ('04) and Nathan Holloway ('04) – 6 January 2014, in Africa
- Samantha Kassell ('04) and Greg Edelmuth – 23 January 2014 (8)
- Tali Ezekiel ('05) and David Weiner – 23 March 2014
- Jessica Weiss ('06) and Dane Segail – 30 March 2014 (9)



## Births:

- **Jessica (Bures)** '90 and Garry Henley – Asher Garry, born 24 April 2014, a brother to Nicholas
- Vega and **Boris Feldman** ('96) – Ashton Lawrence, born 16 March 2014, a brother to Oliver (10)
- **Sarah (Kummerfeld)** '97 and Matt Pellow – Hannah Rachel, born 2 May 2014, a sister to big brother Benjamin (11)
- **Sam (Finger)** '98 and Daniel Butt – Alicia Natalie, born 20 January 2014, a sister to big sisters Emma and Lexi (12)
- Ilana and **Daniel Moddel** ('98) – Zara Beth, born 22 May 2014, a sister to big brother Noah
- **Adva (Assoulin)** '99 and Joshua Punin (98) – Ethan Raphael, born 10 May 2014 (13)
- Kirsty and **Ben Green** ('99) – Hannah Phoebe, born 8 January 2014, a sister to big sister Maddison (14)
- **Helen (Dobrinsky)** '00 and Ashley Huban – Joshua, born March 2014
- **Avital (Vitenberg)** '00 and Brad Melman – David Felix, born 23 November 2013
- Tammie and **Gary Poslinsky** ('02) – Dylan David, born 11 December 2013 (15)
- **Ilana (Waxman)** '04 and Adam Symonds ('99) – Jonah Ezra, born 21 March 2014 (16)
- **Nicole (Lewis)** ('98) and James McKay – Ashley, born 17 February 2014, a sister to big brother Jake
- **Michelle (Drexler)** ('00) and Paul Levitt – Maya Asher, born 16 March 2014
- Michelle and **Leon Elski** ('02) – Madeleine Rose, born 26 May 2014 (17)



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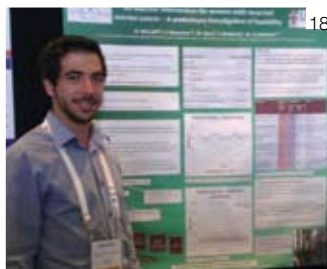
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## Life after School

- **Jacqueline Freeman** ('93) recently launched her new business "Soundplay Australia" – kids music and movement classes for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers, in Double Bay and Zetland. [www.soundplayaustralia.com](http://www.soundplayaustralia.com)
- **Ilana (Klamer) Feain** ('96) previously worked as a Research and Project Scientist at CSIRO Astronomy and Space Science Division, having obtained her PhD in Astrophysics from The University of Sydney in 2006. She recently changed direction, and has taken up the position of Senior Research Fellow in the School of Medicine Radiation Physics Laboratory at Sydney University. [www.sydney.edu.au/medicine/radiation-physics/](http://www.sydney.edu.au/medicine/radiation-physics/)
- **David Mizrahi** ('05) recently submitted his Master's by Research thesis through the School of Medical Sciences at the University of New South Wales in which he conducted an exercise intervention for women with advanced ovarian cancer during chemotherapy, the first in this population to date. "My research showed that exercise can reduce fatigue and anxiety as well as improve strength and quality of life during treatment. I have presented these results at medical conferences around Australia and in the UK. I also speak at numerous patient support groups at hospitals around Sydney to promote a healthy lifestyle and am involved in teaching the undergraduate Bachelor of Exercise Physiology degree at UNSW". (18)



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- **Sarah (Krigstein) Robuck** ('05) recently won the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and the AJN's Young Jewish Sydney photography competition, with a photograph of three young Jews learning and praying at North Shore Temple Emanuel. Sarah says "learning how to pray and singing songs that have been sung for thousands of years by Jewish people represent continuity of Judaism for me".
- We recently heard that **Amy Meyer** ('09) has been selected as a member of the Australia Judo Team for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, in July. Amy, now age 22, has been selected in the lightest category, 48kg, and together with the rest of the team, has been competing in the Australian national championships in Wollongong in early June and leaves Australia at the end of the month for a 10-day training camp in Spain and a further training camp in England en route to the Games in Glasgow. (19)
- **Genna Radnan** ('09) finished her nursing degree at the end of last year at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and is now a registered nurse, working full-time as School Nurse here at Emanuel School. She was recently awarded the School of Nursing (NSW) Special Achievement Award. Genna, founder and CEO of Gennarosity Abroad, organised The Brave Radnan Shave on 24 May



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at which she and her two older sisters, **Gabby** ('06) and **Steffi** ('07), shaved their heads in honour of the women in Africa. Their fundraising goal for this year is \$20,000 which will help keep the doors of Grandma Jenny's Training Centre open for the next year, allowing current students to graduate and assist the Centre in achieving sustainability. (20, 21 & 22)

- **Aidan Kane** ('10) starred as Purser in University of Sydney and the Media and Education Coordinator for MUSE's (The University of Sydney Musical Theatre Ensemble) major production of Cole Porter's *Anything Goes* which was performed over four nights at the end of March at the Everest Theatre, Seymour Centre. (23)



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"I'm doing my honours in Molecular Microbiology (at University of Sydney). I've also been in a couple of other shows in the past few months, including the *Sydney University Revue* for the Sydney Comedy Festival, and I just started rehearsals for a Sydney production of Sondheim's *"Anyone Can Whistle."*

## News from Abroad

- **Ally Burnie** ('11) is in New York for six weeks, completing a creative writing course at New York University. She is in her final year of a journalism degree at UTS. She says "I am really lucky as this course at NYU counts towards my degree.....I have also had some travel stories published for the Daily Telegraph about a Contiki tour I was commissioned to write for by News Corp."

- **Daniel Goldbach** ('12) left Sydney early June for London, where he is now working full-time as a Software Engineer at Google. He says "I will stay in London for at least a year. If I like it there, I will keep working there....if not, I can always get transferred to another office in Europe or the US, or even to the Sydney office." We wish Daniel all the best for his move overseas.

## Alumni Living Abroad

### Israel

- Noya Lazor ('90)
- Ondine Sherman ('90)
- Gil Baum ('97)
- Rabbi Mordechai Guth ('98)
- Jonathon Ben Haim ('03)
- Daniel Samowitz ('04)
- Dan Levy ('08)
- Ben Milston ('08)
- Michelle Mizrahi ('08)
- Leora Ohayon ('08)
- Jess Gorin ('13)

### London

- Lana Budai ('89)
- Paul Zines ('03)
- Robert Simons ('03)
- David Friedman ('11)
- Daniel Goldbach ('12)

### NYC

- Andrew Ross ('00)
- Eliza Sevitt ('07)
- Alan Harca ('03)
- Rachel Filler ('05)
- Nicola Sevitt ('07)

### Other parts of the US

- Jennifer Kassell ('02) – Austin, Texas
- Avi Orski ('03) – Atlanta, Georgia
- Dan Coleman ('02) – Boulder, Colorado
- Jeremy Skolnik ('01) – West Palm Beach, Florida

### Other parts of the world

- Daniel Weltlinger ('95) – Berlin
- Jeanine (Blachere) Prager ('00) – Paris
- Marco Pin ('07) – Bologna, Italy

If you are also living overseas or you know alumni overseas who are not on one of the lists above, we would love to know where you are, and what you are doing. Email your news to [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au) or you can get in touch with alumni via [www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/)

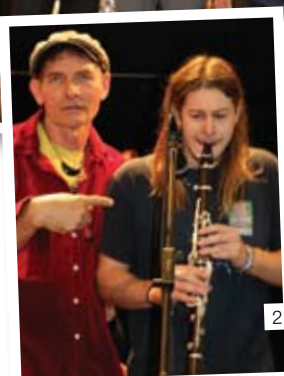
## Alumni revisit School

- **Neill Duncan**, saxophone player and ex-Emanuel Klezmer Band tutor returned to School recently with his band *The Jew Boys* to lead a music workshop with Emanuel student musicians. This workshop was followed by a concert in the MPH to which parents and alumni were also invited (1 & 2). Neill was recently featured on Channel 10's 'The Project'. In 2012 Neill lost his left arm to cancer but that didn't stop him from playing the saxophone. With a custom-built one-hand saxophone, Neill has become the world's only one-handed sax player and continues to play and tour with the Jew Brothers and others. [www.smh.com.au/entertainment/music/lifechanging-event-losing-an-arm-20131231-3046p.html](http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/music/lifechanging-event-losing-an-arm-20131231-3046p.html)

There was an impromptu musical presentation at the end of the afternoon, and alumnus **Clovis Carrive Meyer** ('11) and **Jack Stoneham**, who was a student at the School til the end of Year 6, in 2006, had the opportunity to play with Neill and the band.



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# Alumni revisit School (continued)

- We have had a number of alumni return to School this year, including Claudia Sceats ('09) (3), Natalie Adler ('08) (4), Rebecca Einfeld ('09) (4), Nikki Greenberger ('08) (5) and Talia Hynek ('09) (6), as part of their practical sessions of their various undergraduate university teaching degrees.

**We also have alumni coming back to School each week for various student activities, eg to run the lunchtime chess club for Primary students, the Computer Club for High School students and our after school Homework Club, just to name a few.**

- Paul Masnick (Head Madrich '92) attended our Primary Open Day in March. (7)

- Ari Shammay ('02) spent a morning with the current Year 12 Chemistry class, talking about some of the upcoming HSC syllabus. His profound experiences in the work-field and extensive knowledge on topics such as water regulation gave the students much insight to this area. (8)

- Isabel Hartstein ('12) comes to School every Tuesday lunchtime to coach our keen Primary Chess Club students. (9)

- Computer Club has around 15 members from Year 7 to Year 11. They meet every Thursday lunchtime and are led by Emanuel graduates Rafi Blecher, Saul Herman (10) and Hannah Beder, all from the Class of 2012.

- Daisy Kolt ('13) helping at the Homework Club. (11)

- Mitch Burnie ('11) is at School several times a week. He is an informal Jewish Life Madrich, and his role is to bring aspects of Judaism and Zionism into the School out of class hours. He runs an Israeli news club on Tuesdays, a *Shabbat* band on Wednesdays and a *shesh besh* (backgammon) hangout on Thursday lunchtimes with our High School students. (12)

- Jesse Moses ('12) comes in to School every Friday morning during *Shabbat*, having recently started up a Jewish philosophy discussion group with some of our Year 10 students, covering different content not usually found in our School curriculum. Jesse says "the plan is to cover three aspects of Jewish philosophy: secular philosophy on Judaism, Jewish philosophy and the way these two concepts interact." There are around seven students in this class, keeping numbers small to ensure they get as much discussion going as possible. He says "we recently covered topics such as Jewish Atheism, and modes of belief, and will be starting on Jewish philosophy topics such as free will and the afterlife." (12)

- Miriam (Mimi) Greenbaum ('12) returned to help again for our recent School Music Camp, held at Galston Gorge over four days and then the Music Camp Concert at School. This year, she helped the Director of Strings with the Strings Ensembles during the rehearsal sessions and then performed with them and also with the Combined Choir at the concert on Sunday 15 June. Mimi has participated in every School Music Camp since 2004. (13)

- Jonty Katz ('12) was one of the judges at the Inter-House Debating competition grand final. (14)



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# Out & About with Emanuel Alumni

Numerous Emanuel Alumni were involved in promoting many varied and worthy organisations at this year's *Yom Ha'atzmaut* celebrations held at Randwick Racecourse. 66 years of Israel's Independence is certainly something to celebrate!

Tracy-Lee Shneier and Cara Black, both from the Class of 2006 were helping to spread the word about The Gift of Life Australia, whose mission is to raise awareness about the life saving potential of Stem Cell, Bone Marrow and Cord Blood transplants and to increase the representation of Jewish people on the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry. One of our Emanuel Grandparents, Shula Endrey-Walder OAM is the founder of this amazing organisation here in Australia. Emanuel School has another connection with this life saving program – Fred Swaab, grandfather of four current Emanuel students, was diagnosed in late October 2010 with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, and in March 2011 had a successful bone marrow transplant, the donor for which was found in America, through the Gift of Life register.

Emanuel alumni forged a strong presence at the event, representing the various youth movements, in particular Habonim. The Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) was also well represented by some of our alumni, including Nicola Kobilski ('09) who is currently the National Chairperson of AUJS.



A large contingency of Emanuel graduates from the Class of 2013 are currently participating in various Israel programs, including Shnat (with Habonim, Betar and Hineni) plus Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) Aviv and IBC. They all came together on Mount Herzl in Jerusalem for a special ANZAC Day Commemoration.



At our March CBD networking breakfast for parents, Alumnus Sam Koslowski (Head Madrich 2012) gave an inspiring speech about some of his experiences as a student at Emanuel School, and how those experiences have prepared him for life after School.

## WANT TO CATCH UP WITH OLD SCHOOL FRIENDS?

Keep your eyes posted for details about upcoming Emanuel School Reunions.

If you have any old school photos that you would like to share on the night, please contact Sonia on 8383 7350 or [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au) for details.

## GIFT OF LIFE AUSTRALIA SAVE A LIFE

The Australian Jewish Community is invited to save a life:

Four Jewish Leukaemia patients aged 2, 6, 15 and 61 years are dying.

A matching blood stem cell or bone marrow transfusion can save their lives.

If you are healthy, 18-45 yrs, 50+ kg, neither pregnant nor feeding, **YOU** may be their only match and hope.

### Ways to be tested and registered :

- **Sydney** testing on Sundays at Wolper Jewish Hospital Woollahra by appointment only. Completing the Red Cross/ABMDR medical questionnaire and giving a 2 teaspoon blood sample.  
[info@giftoflifeaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@giftoflifeaustralia.org.au) Shula 0414 780 444
- **Melbourne** testing by appointment  
[info@giftoflifeaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@giftoflifeaustralia.org.au) Yehuda 0425 724 314  
ABMDR Victoria 03 9694 0101. Donating blood at Caulfield Blood Bank Donor Centre.
- **Anytime** at any RED CROSS BLOOD DONOR CENTRE while donating blood. Special forms and test tubes are needed so pre bookings are necessary.

[www.donateblood.com.au](http://www.donateblood.com.au) [www.abmdr.org.au](http://www.abmdr.org.au)

Mums-to-be can donate their umbilical cord blood which is ordinarily thrown out, to help save a child.

[http://www.abmdr.org.au/cord\\_home.php](http://www.abmdr.org.au/cord_home.php)

[www.giftoflifeaustralia.org.au](http://www.giftoflifeaustralia.org.au)



Recruiting to the Australian Bone Marrow Donor Registry



# Interview with Gabriel Pallo

Many of our alumni were students here or at Vaucluse Public School during Gabriel's leadership and I feel honoured to interview him now as he approaches his retirement at the end of this School term, on 27 June.

**You came to Emanuel School in 2001, as Head of Primary. Where did you work before that?**

I was the Head of Primary at Masada College. Prior to that, I worked in the Public School system for close to 20 years at a number of different schools, the last one being Vaucluse Public School. I am saying that because one of the attractions in coming to Emanuel was the opportunity to touch base again with many of the families I knew from my days at Vaucluse.

**What are your first memories of Emanuel School and the students?**

I will never forget the then Principal taking me on a tour of the School and me thinking how terrible the conditions were in those days. Some of the classrooms looked really substandard. I could not work out why anyone would send their child to a school that looked so basic. Needless to say, my opinion quickly changed as I met the teachers and the students who made me feel so welcome. I also remember that dreadful looking mustard (camel apparently) looking uniform with the maroon blazer. Thank goodness that within a couple of years the uniform was radically changed. We now have a very smart looking uniform, particularly when students wear it properly.

**In your 14 years as Head of Primary here, you have seen hundreds of students go from Year K through to High School, but one year group, the Class of 2013, is the one group you have seen complete their schooling here, from Year K to Year 12. Tell me about your memories of this cohort.....**

I had the pleasure of teaching many of those students Maths when they were in Primary School. They were a very special group of children then and remained so over their High School years. Perhaps the thing that makes me the most proud in being associated with Emanuel is knowing that our graduates are such fine young men and women who will make a positive contribution to society. We all know that Emanuel delivers outstanding education when it comes to academic standards. But where we are really special is in the calibre of our students as they graduate. They are real *Mensches*.

**Your late mother, Lilly Elliot, was, for a number of years, one of our Year 6 Project Heritage historians. Tell me about your mother and her connections with the School.**

Mum knew how passionate I was about Emanuel and wanted to be actively involved in the life of our School. She volunteered her services three times as a Living Historian. Living in the middle of Bondi Junction, nothing gave her more pleasure than being approached by some of our students and feeling a genuine bond



with them. I remember mum being extremely upset whenever she felt that Emanuel was not featuring as prominently in the Jewish News as some of the other schools. She was such a supporter of our School.

**What are your plans for retirement?**

My wife and I plan to spend four months a year travelling overseas, primarily in Europe. We will use our apartment in Budapest as our base. I will play lots of golf, tennis, go to the gym (G-d knows I need to). I will also return to University to do some studies in political history. I will take cooking lessons and spend some time doing woodwork. I am not sure how I am going to fit it all in. I am even thinking of writing a book called "So you want to be a Principal". The last 18 years have certainly provided me with sufficient experiences and material to turn it into a very funny one.

**Memories of other major events here at school.....**

I have been so blessed to end my career at a school like Emanuel. It is a marvelous school and it is so gratifying that people have come to realize the special nature of what Emanuel offers. For me, there have been so many highlights; it is hard to pinpoint any in particular. However, the daily contact with the kids and the staff is something that I will always treasure. My most famous legacy is apparently the Pallo handshake. Silly really but it is nice to be remembered for something.

My motto has always been, "be passionate about your job, but don't ever take yourself too seriously".

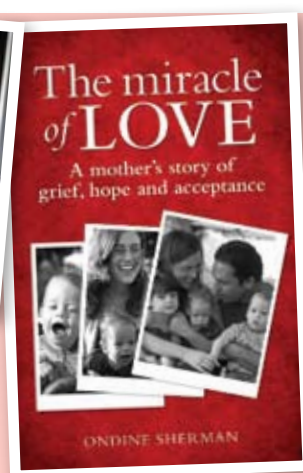
Also, a good leader should never take credit for any achievements; the team should always take all the credit.



# The Miracle of Love

I recently had the pleasure of attending a session at the Sydney Jewish Museum, where alumnus Ondine Sherman ('90) was interviewed by her cousin, journalist and founder of Mamamia, Mia Freedman, about her book "The Miracle of Love" – a memoir of Ondine's journey with her twin sons Dov and Lev, who were born with a rare genetic disorder. She says "the book is an intimate account of my experiences with my twins who have severe disabilities. A journey that ultimately leads me to love, hope and acceptance and a new understanding of 'miracles'." Ondine spoke frankly about the challenges and how life changed for her and husband Dror Ben Ami and their daughter Jasmine after the birth of the twins, who are now aged seven. Ondine and her family now live in Tel Aviv. Disability support from the Israeli Government is far more generous than what was available in Australia, according to Ondine – and the boys go each day to Tel Aviv's Beit Venezuela-Kalisher School, a state-of-the-art centre for children with severe motor, neurological and cognitive impairment. Unable to find a suitable school in Australia, Ondine had home-schooled the boys for a year. "Schooling was a big factor for me in returning to Israel," she says. Ondine, who has a BA in Communications and an MA in Environmental Education, is the co-founder of the animal advocacy organisation, Voiceless, with her father, Brian Sherman AM, who was a Founding Board member of the School. Brian and his wife, Dr Gene Sherman AM who were Patrons for our highly successful 2013 Capital Appeal, are grandparents here at Emanuel School, with grandsons Cy in Kornmehl and Milo in Year 2, the sons of Ondine's brother Emile.

**Sonia Newell – Development Officer.**



## Where are some of our Alumni now?

### Dr Michael Krasovitsky Class of 2005



#### **What did you do after leaving school?**

Immediately after school, I travelled to Vietnam with my family for a celebratory and relaxing month of cultural exploration and adventure. I also travelled up to the Gold Coast with some friends from school for a well-deserved party! Following these trips, I started a degree in Arts Languages at Sydney University.



#### **Did you follow your field of study at the time?**

In my final years of school, I focused on my favourite subjects, which were French, History and English. Indeed, it was my love of these subjects that made me decide to do arts languages, a degree which allowed me to explore a range of different interests and travel abroad. I eventually completed combined honours in French and History, writing on Holocaust denial legislation in France. Following this,

I made a rather dramatic shift to study medicine, which I completed at ANU. Though I hadn't studied science in school, I applied myself throughout my degree and finished with first class honours.

#### **Have you done any other overseas travel? How long for and where did you travel/study?**

During my Arts languages degree, I spent seven months living and studying in Paris, at the *Fondation nationale des sciences politiques*. This was one of the most wonderful, exciting and enjoyable experiences of my life. During my medical degree, I travelled extensively for study and work. One year, I travelled to a rural hospital in Cambodia, where I worked in the maternity and paediatric ward of

a busy yet frightfully under-resourced local health centre. Another year, I travelled through India to Nepal, where I worked in the country's only paediatric hospital for a number of months. As part of my degree, I also worked in the emergency department of Tennant Creek Hospital, in the middle of the Northern Territory, where I got a glimpse at some of the challenges and accomplishments in Indigenous health care.

#### **Are you still in touch with your group of friends from school?**

The love and respect that I have for my friends from school are astounding. At a recent catch up dinner, I was struck by what caring, cosmopolitan, driven members of society Emanuel produces. It was truly remarkable to see what wonderful endeavours people were involved in. Unfortunately, the pace of life means that I don't see as much of my school friends as I wish I could, but when we do get together, it is just wonderful.

#### **What is your current occupation?**

I'm a doctor at the Prince of Wales Hospital, which includes the Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children's Hospital. I am currently rotating through a number of different specialties, having just finished Respiratory and Infectious Diseases. I hope next year to commence work at the Sydney Children's Hospital as part of my paediatric specialty training.

#### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

I have been sure to maintain a good set of hobbies throughout my studies. I enjoy running immensely, and have completed a number of long distance races previously. I spend a lot of time in the kitchen and am passionate about cooking. Lastly, I am still passionate about languages, and am currently learning Russian through UNSW.

#### **Where do you want to be in ten years' time?**

I would like to be living abroad in the developing world with my family, working in general paediatrics, perhaps with an NGO such as *Medecins San Frontieres*. I would like to be extending my knowledge of both medicine and languages, and enjoying time with my friends and family.

#### **What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?**

There are honestly too many to even consider. I had the most wonderful time at Emanuel – It gave me the freedom to explore who I was and instilled in me a real love of learning. There were highlights of course – school camps, music festivals, common room antics, graduation, swimming carnivals, the list goes on!

## Marina (Gankin) Makhlin

### Class of 2004

#### **What did you do after leaving school?**

After school I became a property manager and then was approached by Paddington Markets to work in the management team. I then went on to work for Westfield in their management team at Bondi Junction where I worked until

I had my first baby, David now aged two. Within quick succession I had another little boy, Daniel who has just turned one. I have now returned to my first passion of Real Estate.

#### **Did you follow your field of study at the time?**

I didn't study at first as I wanted to figure out what my passions were. I have since done a number of business diplomas and real estate courses.

#### **Have you done any overseas travel? How long for and where did you travel/study?**

I did travel after school for a couple of months around Europe and London, which I couldn't recommend more to people finishing school. It completely changes your outlook. After I met my husband we then did more travelling around America, Thailand and Australia.

#### **Are you still in touch with your group of friends from school?**

I am still extremely close with some girls I met through school. We are all either getting married or having babies now. With everyone else from our year the world of Facebook helps us stay in touch and updated on



everyone's lives. Sometimes you don't even feel like you haven't seen them for years.

#### **What is your current occupation?**

I am currently a Sales Executive at Richardson & Wrench Bondi Junction, but most importantly I am a mummy to my two gorgeous boys.

#### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

When I became a mum I found my hobbies became a little secondary. My husband and I still love going out for dinner and exploring new restaurants and getting away for a day or two.

#### **Where do you want to be in ten years' time?**

Hopefully have my own agency in Bondi Junction and be dropping off my sons for school at Emanuel.

#### **What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?**

Most probably Year 12 and the fun we had in the common room – the arguments and the laughter all stick with me. Also all the sports carnivals stand as fond memories. I always loved all the sporting carnivals and after school sports. The sense of being part of a team in such a small school in comparison to the others competing always stays with me. The sense of family at Emanuel is forever memorable.

## Daniel Samowitz

### Class of 2004

After school I went on *Shnat* with *Habonim Dror*, which really opened up my understandings of the Jewish world and Zionism. I returned to Australia and completed a diploma in welfare and community service, whilst working in the welfare sector with people with disabilities and youth education around drugs and social issues.

Due to my involvement in the movement I was always travelling between Israel and Sydney. I was the federal *Mazkir* of *Habo* in 2008 and in 2009 I was a *Shnat Madrich*. In 2010 I decided to make my life permanently in Israel and made *Aliyah*. Questions around my Jewish identity and who and what I felt responsible for in the world led me to this decision. Since then I have completed Army service and been working in informal education for Israelis, co-existence programs, Jews from the diaspora around Jewish identity, informal education and Zionism.

Today I am the *Recuz Chinuch* (Educational Coordinator) for World *Habonim Dror*. *Habo* is present in over 19 countries worldwide and I run educational programs in and for the different countries. I also meet with members of the Jewish agency, World Zionist Organization and *K'nesset* (parliament) to try and ensure that *Shlichim* and youth movements will be around for many years to come. I get to travel quite a lot – earlier this year I was able to run a seminar for *Habonim* Europe in Belgium, and I am going to the USA and Canada in July and to Berlin later this year.



I live in an urban Kibbutz in Haifa and am a member of *kvutzot Am*, the network of educators' kibbutzim of *Habonim Dror Olim*. I am fluent in *Ivrit* but it has been a hard struggle and I have a lot of room for improvement!

In terms of my group of friends from school we all recently went away together to South Africa for the wedding of Keri and Nathan Holloway – we are all still wondering why she did it. I come back to Sydney every 16 months, usually timed for a wedding or a birth in the family.

I enjoy sport and being politically/socially active, otherwise *Shabbat* in my Kibbutz (communal group) is the highlight of my week every week. I love all sport but even here in Israel I stay up to date with my first love, rugby. I played a few times for the Haifa team here in Israel. One day I would love to return to the field.

In ten years' time I hope that my friends and I are a bigger influence on the State of Israel and the Jewish people. My fondest memory of School was Modern History class with Miss Keeling. I was never in that class but I always tried to sneak in.

Have some news to share?... Send us the details and share it with your fellow Alumni



# Noya Lazor

## Class of 1990

### **When did you finish at Emanuel School?**

I finished Year 12 in 1990. To give you an idea of just how long ago that was, the Top 5 Chart Singles in 1990 were "Nothing Compares to You" (Sinéad O'Connor), "Vogue" (Madonna), "Ice Ice Baby" (Vanilla Ice), "U Can't Touch This" (MC Hammer) and "It Must Have Been Love" (Roxette) – and I had tapes of all of them (that's "cassette" tapes, now extinct). The Best Picture nominees at the Academy Awards that year were "Ghost", "Dances with Wolves", "The Godfather Part III", "Awakenings" and "Goodfellas", all of which were eventually available to rent on video (that's video "cassettes", now extinct). Gulp.

### **What did you do after leaving school?**

I went straight to University. I studied at UTS and graduated in 1993 with a B.A. Communications (Advertising major, Journalism sub-major). In my final year of Uni I was also accepted into AWARD School (AWARD stands for "Australian Writers and Art Directors").

### **Did you follow your field of study at the time?**

Honestly, I wasn't 100% clear at the time on "what I wanted to be when I grew up" but Communications was a broad enough field and definitely in the right direction so I figured it would come to me eventually.

### **Have you done any overseas travel?**

I was born in Israel and moved to Australia in 1983 so I would travel to Israel every couple of years or so to visit my Israeli relatives and was fortunate to visit many countries during all of my travels. There are still quite a few countries on my "to visit" list so my travelling days are far from over. TRIVIA: For the first decade of travelling to Israel, my family flew with Alitalia a lot, and I can still recite one sentence in Italian almost as well as a native: "Giubbotto salvagente sotto la propria poltrona". It means "Life vest under your seat".

My younger brother Roni moved to Israel a year after I did and still lives here but my parents and my brother Nir remained in Sydney. I try to get back to Sydney at least once a year (if I'm lucky I manage to come twice a year).

### **Are you still in touch with your group of friends from school?**

I stayed in touch with a couple of them for a while but have now lost touch, although recently I corresponded with a few of them following the passing of a dear classmate.

### **What is your current occupation?**

My career started as planned, working as a Copywriter in an advertising agency, but it ended up taking twists and turns that I never expected. Some of the highlights included working for: My family business (supplying accessories to fashion manufacturers all over Australia) where I learned the invaluable art of Sales and Business Development.

The Australian Jewish News as their Supplements & Magazines Editor, where I got to be a journalist, ad executive, salesperson, creative director and website project manager all at once.

McCann Worldgroup (back to Advertising again) as a Copywriter and Email Marketing Manager, where I got to work with awesome global brands, including a little software company you may have heard of (Microsoft). The Email Marketing part was unplanned and I didn't know a whole lot about it when I started but once I understood the power of email as a marketing channel, I was hooked, and still am.

In late 2008 I moved back to Israel and have continued working as a marketer at a couple of different startups. I'm now a marketing consultant, I run a blog called The Best of Email ([www.thebestofemail.com](http://www.thebestofemail.com)) and am working on a couple of other interesting projects. Israel (a.k.a. Silicon Wadi) is a very exciting place to be working in right now and the entrepreneurial spirit is infectious (in the best sense).



### **What are your hobbies/interests?**

The usual: Music, books, movies and writing. Also, *Words With Friends*, occasional poker, and TV masterpieces like *Game of Thrones*, *House of Cards*, *The Good Wife*, *Mad Men* etc. I like some slightly less intelligent shows too but I'll refrain from mentioning them here in case I've managed to sound impressive so far (it would be a shame to spoil it).

### **Where do you want to be in ten years' time?**

I don't even know what's in store for me a year from now let alone ten years from now, but hopefully wherever I am and whatever I'm doing, I'll be loving it.

### **What is your fondest memory of your time at school and why?**

When I first arrived in Australia at the end of 1983 (the beginning of the school year in Israel), my parents decided that my younger brother Nir and I should attend Emanuel School so I spent a couple of months of Year 6 in the original campus at the Temple Emanuel in Woollahra before moving straight on to high school (essentially skipping a year) and to a temporary campus in Watsons Bay.

The School only spent one year at the Watsons Bay campus but it was a super fun year. Each morning started not only by singing our daily prayers, but also with a run along The Gap! Talk about culture shock, moving from a typical Israeli primary school to a school with a harbour and ocean view.

The following year we moved to the current campus in Randwick, only back then it wasn't the Shangri La that it is today. Still, my classmates were such a great bunch of kids and we had a lot of fun. Every year we had at least one camp and that was always a highlight, usually involving abseiling, canoeing, hiking, and a healthy dose of mischief.

We all went through half a decade's worth of hideous fashion and atrocious hairstyles together – thinking that we were the height of coolness of course – so while I look back at photos of myself from that time mostly in sheer horror, I still remember my high school years very fondly.

At the end of Year 11 I wasn't happy with my choice of subjects for the HSC (too many "science" subjects that I wasn't particularly good at and not enough "humanities" subjects that I would have liked to be taking instead) so since I skipped a year when I first arrived in Australia and was actually the right age for the year below, I decided to repeat Year 11 but this time to take subjects I enjoyed and was good at. So although I spent most of my high school years with the kids from the Class of '89, I ended up graduating with the Class of '90. In hindsight it was one of the biggest and best decisions I ever made because it got me into the course I wanted at University, and the rest is history.

I can't talk about my fondest memory of my time at school without mentioning a few remarkable teachers who made a huge impact on my life, in particular Stephen Stoneham (who made me love writing) and Morris Needleman, who convinced me to take 4-Unit Maths by betting me that I would never fail a single exam. I was sure I'd win (easily) so I took the bet. What I didn't realise was that at that level of maths you also get marks for the "working out" and not necessarily for getting the correct final answer, so unbelievably, I lost the bet and on my second-last day of school Mr Needleman made me wear a hat with a sign on it that said "Mr N's Slave" and I had to teach all of his maths classes for the day while he chilled out at the back of the class. I also had to go to the local shopping centre wearing that ridiculous hat to buy him lunch. It sounds horrible but it was actually pretty funny (in hindsight). Good times, good times....

### **What advice would you give to today's Emanuel School students?**

The world is a different place today than it was when I was a kid. We didn't have smartphones and the internet was still in its infancy and at the mercy of dial-up modems (to kids reading this who don't know what that is, Google it). But one thing that seems to stay constant is kids' attitudes to one another (all part of growing up) so my advice is aimed at kids who think they're "too cool for school". Kids – newsflash: Today's "nerds" are tomorrow's industry leaders, so don't knock studying, or nerds for that matter, because one day they will probably be your bosses.

# The Emanuel School Family 1983

We are now only missing eight names..... hope you can help complete this list of our first ever official Emanuel School photograph. How good is your memory? **Can you help us identify them?**



- Front Row (L-R): Bianca Gehl, Naomi Tarsis, Mela \_\_\_\_, Zoe Spiegel, Kate Ratner, Jasmin Streimer, Alanah Zitzerman, Christina Lemkin, Simone Havin, \_\_\_\_, Talia Deutsch, Susan \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Georgia Teiperman, Janine Israel.
- Second Row (L-R): Alla Nock, Miriam Fox, Jenny Spinak, Jessica Bures, Ondine Sherman, Mandi Smith, Eli Haski, Daphny Ravy, Natasha Cherny, Khara Weisz, Svetlana Goltsman, Rachel Spiegel.
- Third Row (L-R): Benny Sharon, Daniel Vasin, Russel Bergman, Rueben Newhouse, Danny Sharon, David Jeffries, Julian Bures, Perlita Benhayon, Kolya Miller, Ben Fox, David Ratner, Jacob Kaplan, Alex Strizhevsky, Jonathan Hirst, Simon Glasser, Eric \_\_\_\_.
- Fourth Row (L-R): David Koteck, Gavin Sorauer, Guy Ravy, David Hirst, Greg Weisz, Anton Boski, Lindi Smith, Felicia Meric, Nadine Weinberger, Marina Goldshmid, Solonge Boski, Sarona Pilcer, Dennis \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, Ryo Hino, Adin Pilcer.
- Back Row (L-R): Hezie Lazarous, Nick Deutsch, David Sorauer, Michael Fooks, Leonid Goltsman, Harry Derunovsky, Alan Jeffries, Eugene Freeney, Ronnie Aron, Ari Marks, Christian Charnas, Yonaton Miller, Ben Donally, Ronen Stoller.
- Staff: LHS left to right: Sandi Einstein, Shirley Holt, Linda Zurnamer.  
Middle of photo left to right: Lou-Anne Folder, Tom Wiedenman (Principal), Sarah Friend.  
RHS left to right: Debbie Levy, Jeanette Streimer, Carol Perry.

## Staying In Touch

There are so many ways to stay involved with School.

- **Send your news and photos for publication:** We love to read what our old school friends have been up to, so please send in your news and photos for the next issue of our Emanuel School Alumni newsletter.
- **Help to organise and/or attend your reunion:** Class reunions are held every five years, and get-togethers can be arranged at any time. Organising social events can be great fun and if you cannot organise one, make sure you attend.
- **Speak at a School event:** Past students are invited back as guest speakers at events, assemblies and in classes. If you have a topic of interest, please let us know.
- **Contribute to our School Archives:** Have you been wondering what to do with your school photos, uniform, publications, programs? Please do not throw them away. They may be important to us.
- **Visit us:** If you would like to visit the School and see how it has changed since you left as a student, please let us know and we can organise a tour of the campus.



**FROM THE VAULT**  
**DO YOU HAVE ANY OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO SHARE?**

Please contact Sonia on 8383 7350 or [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au) to see about getting them in the next issue.



# Reunions planned for 2014

We are planning five year group reunions this year. Please let us know if you can help with your own reunion. Contact Sonia, on [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

- Class of 1989 – 25 years
- Class of 1994 – 20 years
- Class of 1999 – 15 years
- Class of 2004 – 10 years
- Class of 2009 – 5 years



## What's your news?

Do you want to add or update your details on our Alumni mailing list?

Do you have some news about yourself or another Alumnus you would like to share?

If you have some news of a graduation, career achievement, birth, engagement, marriage, past or present activities or simply a fond memory from your school days, please get in touch with the School.

Please send an email to Sonia Newell at [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

We hope you enjoyed reading this newsletter and we look forward to your contributions in the future. Please email your contact details to [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au) so we can add you to our mailing list.

Thank you to our staff and other members of our Emanuel School community for your invaluable contributions to this newsletter.

We believe the information included is correct at the time of printing. Any errors are regretted.



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



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