



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Alumni

NEWS

December 2015

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From the Development Office

Another busy year comes to a close. Since our mid-year newsletter, alumni have returned to the School for a variety of reasons. Some came in August to see 'Fiddler on the Roof', our first performance in the new Millie Phillips Theatre, whilst others came to continue helping with Homework Club and other student-based activities. Some came for their student practicum

and some came back to say "hello" and see how the School has changed since they left as Year 12 students many years ago!

David Galler ('99) returned as a member of the panel for E-Zone, a Year 11-12 careers event held mid-August, when our senior students heard from four presenters about life after school, studies and work, and how plans can change when opportunities are embraced. David's topic was "Business skills for the 21st Century".

We welcome our youngest alumni, the Class of 2015, and look forward to staying in touch and hearing about your journey after school.

Over the past couple of months we have celebrated a number of alumni reunions and most recently, showcased our amazing new Kleinlehrer Family LINC Building on 29 November at an alumni event, which was also attended by some past staff members. See pages 3-4 for details and photos.

Christopher Lee ('90), came from Hong Kong where he now lives, for his 25-year reunion, and he also managed to squeeze in a tour of the campus – a place he had not seen since walking out the front gates at the end of Year 12 all those years ago! See page 7 for photos and some comments by Chris on his impressions of school then and now.

On 1 December, we held our second Alumni vs current students sports challenge. At our inaugural sports challenge last year, the alumni futsal team narrowly beat the student team, and so this year our students were more than ready to take on the alumni team to even up the score! In the heat of the day, where the outside temperature soared to the mid-30's and beyond, the teams played in the air conditioned Multi-purpose Hall. Ably refereed again this year by Mr Martin Rembson, Head of Rabin and Business Studies/HSIE teacher, the final score was 5 all, with the students winning on penalties. We look forward to our 2016 sports challenge and hope to get more teams involved next year!

We encourage you to stay in touch. We would love to hear from you and to see you here, for you to talk to our students about career opportunities and to hear about what you have been doing since completing Year 12 at Emanuel School.

Our alumni Facebook page is a popular medium for sharing your news. If you are not already a member, here is the link to join: www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/

Don't forget you can promote your business on our Emanuel Shuk: www.facebook.com/groups/Emanuelshuk/

We wish you a relaxing, safe and enjoyable summer break and look forward to an exciting 2016.

Sonia Newell, Development Officer



David Galler



Sport Challenge Teams

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EMANUEL SCHOOL

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni of Emanuel School,

It was exciting to move into our new Kleinlehrer Family LINC (lead, inspire, nurture, create) Building at the beginning of Term 3 this year. We have settled into it very quickly and now it's hard to remember the campus without it. I hope that many of you made it to the

alumni function at the end of November to view this new, multi-purpose building that includes Years 1 to 4 classrooms, a Visual Arts precinct, the Millie Phillips Theatre, the Angles Leadership and Learning Centre and the Wellness Centre. The students are loving it, especially the extra play space it provides.

We have started on our next building project already, with additional music practice rooms and rehearsal space being built around the north-east corner of the Multi Purpose Hall, as well as a large deck under the trees at the end of the basketball court. We will also be renovating the old Art block into a Kindergarten space, and the Adler building into Years 5 and 6 classrooms, before removing the remaining set of demountables, our lovingly named 'X Block' sometime next year. We have plans to improve the playground spaces as well and will be renovating different outdoor areas as the years progress. We are working towards having an up-to-date and engaging campus that has lots of different play spaces and wonderful facilities for our students.

As we move very quickly towards the end of the school year, it's very gratifying to look back on all the initiatives and programs that we have implemented this year, including our new and very successful venture into East Timor, three trips to Jilkmिंगgan in the Northern Territory, much activity through our EActive sports program and a great deal of learning across so many domains. If you were lucky enough to see our production of 'Fiddler on the Roof' in our own theatre this year, and/or some of the many musical events, you would recognise that the dramatic and performing arts remain very strong. We are proud of our commitment to the education



of the whole person and the many facets of the broad set of experiences in which our students are able to engage. 'Mind, Spirit, Being' is a motto by which we live.

As alumni, there are many opportunities for you to continue to be engaged in our community – you could coach a sports team, help out in our Homework Club after school, assist with music performances, take part in EZone or the student-alumni sporting matches. Some alumni participated in the P & F Golf Day at Bonnie Doon late in October, enjoying a relaxing time with other alumni, parents and

friends of our School. We are also looking for alumni with special interests, who we could link up with some of our students as a mentor. If you haven't yet done so and are interested, contact Sonia Newell and speak to her about ways you can get involved. Best wishes for a wonderful summer break.

Anne Hastings, Principal



Connecting the Emanuel School Community

students in so many ways – your contributions to the life of the School and your stories of encouragement to our current students are always greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you on campus next year after a well-deserved rest over the summer break. Please stay in touch.

Daniel Knoll, Board member and Chair, Gesher Committee

It has been a busy time since my last report in the June issue of the newsletter. It was good to meet some of you at our recent alumni event to showcase our new building – what an asset it is to our School! Some of you are now parents at Emanuel School and as you look around at how the campus has changed since you were students here, you can relish in amazement and pride the benefits that your own children will reap from these wonderful new facilities!

We love to see our alumni returning to School, to give back to our

Alumni visit School

- In early August, our very first performances of 'Fiddler on the Roof' in the new Millie Phillips Theatre were witnessed by numerous alumni. They praised these amazing facilities now available to our current students, whilst lamenting that in days gone by, our major drama and musical productions had to be held off campus, as we didn't have our own drama theatre on site. (1)
- Rikki Parker ('08) returned to campus at the end of August for four weeks, for her student practicum, as part of her Primary Education degree at the University of New England. She holds a B. Comm Marketing (UNSW) and has been very involved with Netzer as a Youth Educator as well as numerous other community volunteer roles including marketing for *Limmud Oz*. (2)
- David Asher Brook ('98) and his wife Hanna co-ordinated the collaborative artwork created by the individual brushstrokes of all of Emanuel School's staff and students in celebration of the opening of the Kleinlehrer LINC Building. The artwork now hangs over the staircase descending to the Angles Leadership and Learning Centre. (3 & 4)
- Anton (Anthony) Marmot ('89) made a surprise visit to School for a campus tour with classmate Christopher Lee, who was here from Hong Kong for his 25-year reunion. Anton left Emanuel School at the end of Year 11 to do an electrical apprenticeship, and when he finished, he went travelling the globe and ended up in London where he lived for 20 years, working as a property developer and then in the entertainment field, promoting and organising large-scale festivals and events. He moved back to Sydney in January this year, and has started doing events and festivals here, with his first local festival launching in Centennial Park on 23 January 2016. (5)
- Our alumni event on 29 November, to showcase the new Kleinlehrer Family LINC Building, was attended by alumni and some past staff members (6-13)



Welcome to our newest Alumni members, the graduating Class of 2015

Staying in Touch

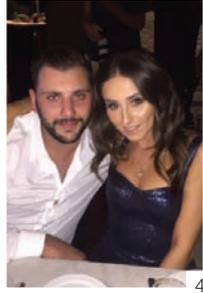
Engagements

- Joanna Podgoetsky ('99) and Petko Vasilev (1)
- Alina Berdichevsky ('00) and Albert Gershoig (2)
- Robert Simons ('04) and Ilana Berman (3)
- Floria Broneva ('08) and Brandon Wax-Polishuk (4)
- Charlotte Lewis ('09) and Robbie Weiss ('09) (5)



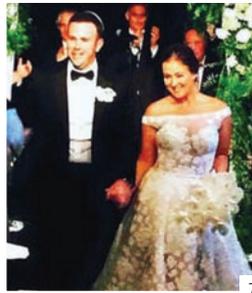
Weddings

- Mark Rosenberg ('00) and Jade Moore – 15 November 2015
- Leora Mucsnik ('02) and Daniel Elison ('02) – 16 August 2015 (6)
- Lana Krongold ('06) and Daniel Faludi ('02) – 11 October 2015 (7)
- Tommy Biller ('04) and Anita Nitchingham – 1 November 2015 (8)
- Lawrence Lanesman ('09) and Isobel (Izzy) Christowski – 28 November 2015 (9)

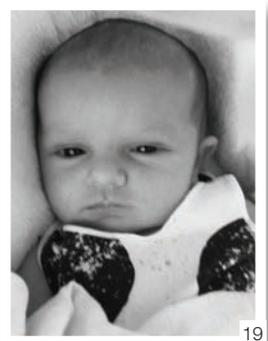


Births

- Lisa (Ross) '95 and Brett Strous – Jay, born 5 June 2015, brother to Kayla and Tali (10 Photo by Justine Perl)
- Jess (Holloway) '01 and Adam Fischer – Koby Bill, born 22 June 2015 (11 pictured with Zac)
- Lexi (Feitelson) '01 and Darryn Teperson – Halle Grace, born 29 June 2015 (12)
- Mandi (Spero) '01 and Guy Binder – Zac, born 21 July 2015 (11 pictured with Koby)
- Aviva (Locker) '02 and Aaron Kippax – Harper Liv, born 25 July 2015 (13)
- Jeanine (Prager) '00 and Benjamin Blachere – Oscar, born 31 July, in Paris, brother to Juliette (14)
- Lisa (Shapiro) '01 and David Greenberg ('01) – Ariel, born 12 August 2015, brother to Isaac (15)



- Leanne (Evans) '01 and Darren Kawalsky – Dylan, born 17 August 2015, brother to twins Ava and Jordan (16)
- Jess Black ('10) and Ashlea Crane – Alfred James (Alfie), born 8 September 2015 (17)
- David Thorfinn Goh ('90) and Carla Dunn – Christopher Goh Dunn, born 20 November 2015, brother to Sebastian (18)
- Adva (Assoulin) '99 and Joshua Punin ('98) – Sienna Margaret, born 3 December, sister to Ethan (19)



Reunions

- The Class of 1990 held their 25-year reunion on 10 October at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Coogee, ably organised by **Daniella Israel**. A great night was had by all who attended, as they reminisced about the past 25 years! **Chris Lee** came from Hong Kong, whilst **Mikayla Bennett (Garfield)** came from Adelaide especially for this event. See an interview with Chris on page 7.



Class of 1990, 25 Year reunion



Class of 1990

- The 20-year reunion for the Class of 1995 was held at the Golden Sheaf, Double Bay on 29 November, straight after the alumni event at School. WhatsApp proved a great way for this group to reconnect and get this reunion organised in just a matter of a few



Class of 1990



Class of 1990



Class of 1995



Class of 1995



Class of 1995, 20 Year reunion

weeks. They even planned to link up on the night with **Daniel Weltlinger** who now lives in Berlin! Thank you to **Nikki Michel (Ross)**, **Lisa Strous (Ross)** and **Silvia Robinson (Malki)**. It was great to see **Russel Bergman** who was visiting from Macau.



Class of 2000, 15 Year reunion



Class of 2000, 15 Year reunion

- The Class of 2000 held their 15-year reunion on 25 October at The Commons Local Eating House in Darlinghurst. A big thank you goes to **Aliza Hofbauer (Denenberg)** and **Stanya Sharota** for organising this event. What a difference five years can make! It was remarked by many who attended, that when they last all got together for their ten-year reunion in 2010, very few of them were in a long-term relationship let alone married with children. 2015 is a very different scenario for many of them, with the exchanging of baby photos being just one part of this group's afternoon conversations.



Class of 2005



Class of 2000



Class of 2000



Class of 2005



Class of 2005, 10 Year reunion

- The Class of 2005 held their ten-year reunion at The Royal Oaks Hotel, Double Bay on 14 October. **Sarah Robuck (Krigstein)** almost single-handedly organised this reunion, whilst working and studying as well as looking after her gorgeous baby



Class of 2010, 5 Year reunion



Class of 2010



Class of 2005

Reunions continued

daughter. On the night, she brought along lots of memorabilia, resulting in reminiscences of many school adventures. It was also wonderful to see a number of ex-students from this year group who did not go on to complete Year 12 at Emanuel School.

- The Class of 2010 held their five-year reunion at The London Tavern, Paddington on 1 November upstairs in an area reserved just for this group. Ariel Opher Verheyden and Shaun Katz organised the event with a great turn-out.



Class of 2010



Class of 2010



Class of 2010, 5 Year reunion



Class of 2010

Where are some of our Alumni now?

Joanna Podgoetsky Class of 1999

"I work as a Premier Field Engineer for Microsoft, providing advice for Premier customers in Australia, New Zealand and South-East Asia. My day-to-day job involves meeting with these clients and helping them improve the systems on which their mission critical applications run. I also organise workshops and speak at technology events and conferences.



I finished Year 12 in 1999 and then completed a Bachelor in Information Systems at UNSW after which I followed my field of study.

Over the past ten years, I have travelled extensively overseas travel – to Costa Rica, England, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Russia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Greece, Portugal, Belgium,

USA, Canada, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand.

My fondest memories of Emanuel School

are getting asked to leave class for giggling too much with my friends, discovering amazing literature in English class with Mrs Hetherington and suddenly discovering Maths made sense to me thanks to Mr Angelou. Emanuel School provided me with a high quality education, which in turn provided the ground work for what has been a very successful career in Technology.

In my spare time I keep active by hiking, playing tennis, gym, indoor rock climbing and salsa dancing. I love reading, traveling and spending time with my family and friends.

In ten years' time, I would love to be running my own business!"

Avi Orski Class of 2003

What did you do after leaving School and did you follow your field of study at the time?

After leaving school I enrolled in a Bachelor of Commerce Degree at the University of Sydney, majoring in Finance and Marketing.

During the second year of my degree, I received an internship at PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in their Management Consulting practice. I was then offered a full-time job and worked there for approximately a year-and-a-half. After that time I joined an online custom golf startup called LindGolf and was there for approximately two years until the company was successfully sold. Following this I followed my 'now wife' to the USA and settled in Atlanta where I joined Ernst and Young in their advisory practice as a senior consultant. I was there for slightly over five years and left as a manager.



What is your occupation now?

Coming back to Australia recently, I have now rejoined PwC in Sydney as a senior manager in their management consulting practice.

What are your hobbies/interests?

I love the outdoors, specifically skiing and soccer. I have always been known by my friends to be very talented at unusual sports including Go Karting, Bowling and Lazer Zone (more an activity than a sport!). I also love to travel and take the opportunity to do so whenever I can.

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

My 'boys' and best friends from school are still my closest friends to this day – Paul Zines, Alan Harca, Shaun Greenblo, Keith Friedlander and Ricky Clennar specifically, but I come across and am friends with many more through sports, professional interests and relationships.

What are your fondest memories of your time at school and why?

Emanuel to me was a big family, from the Principal to the youngest student, I always felt like I knew nearly every person at the School. It gave me a special feeling that is hard to describe but I always felt I was able to be myself, follow my interests and goals and that the School was supporting me.

I have attached a photo from my wedding day with the boys named above whilst we were getting ready to have a *L'chaim*.

Where are some of our Alumni now? continued

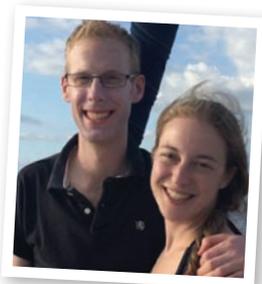
As something different this time, Development Officer Sonia Newell asked a few alumni just two questions:

- What are you doing now?
- How has Emanuel School helped you with your studies and career?

Here are their responses:

Jonathan Kummerfeld Class of 2005

"I am currently a PhD student in Computer Science at UC Berkeley, working on artificial intelligence for language. My thesis focuses on building systems that disambiguate the meaning of sentences, and tools that characterise the mistakes computers make when processing language. I also work as a consultant for two startups in Berkeley. One is still in stealth mode, but the other recently launched, so check it out at writelab.com! My time at Emanuel gave me a strong base of knowledge from which to build, and gave me the opportunity to develop a range of interests, both within class and in extra-curricular activities. I also benefited from the supportive culture, where academic achievement was highly valued, and teachers supported students going beyond the syllabus in areas of interest."



working at the moment as I am taking a break until next year and then hope to move to Canberra to either work for ASIO or the Institute of Criminology in profiling and investigations. I am also interested in juvenile justice."

Christopher Lee Class of 1990

Ever since I graduated from university (UNSW), I have been working and living in Hong Kong for 20 plus years. My experience and background led me into a career in international trade. I was successful with the companies I represented and held various senior positions before finally leaving in 2012 to chase my childhood ambition. It was then that I set up my own company (METALFORM HOLDINGS) supplying steel equipment to the largest international customers around the world. My company operates in more than 25 different countries, including Australia. Certainly when I was at Emanuel School, I had caring teachers. At the beginning, the School had only one class for each year. Our teachers were aware of the strengths and weaknesses of each student. I was fortunate to receive good advice from my teachers that would help me to be more successful in my HSC and later in life. Looking back, the School also provided a good training ground that shaped my character. At the time of the School's humble beginnings, we had to really work hard for everything and anything (lesson 1) and because we had to work hard, we learnt to appreciate what was given to us (lesson 2). These are lessons in life that build one's character. These are lessons in life that we take for granted until one gets a chance to reflect in life. I can now say to be successful in your career is no different. A successful education will get you through the door (the job), but it is the character (how you handle yourself) that will determine your success in any company. I can go on with many examples but I won't. The truth is, I am thankful to have been a student at Emanuel School. I truly appreciate and recognise how Emanuel has helped with my studies and later to transcend to my career. It has been an amazing journey and I still believe I have more to tell in years to come! I loved returning recently for my 25-year reunion and catching up with many of my classmates!"



Sophie Orly Class of 2009

"I finished my degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice at UNSW in July and had my graduation in early November. I would say Emanuel, especially the Specialist Learning Centre and Dr Lynn Joffe in particular, had a great impact on where I am today. The Learning Centre identified from an early stage that I had dyslexia and I truly believe that the early intervention helped me further my studies after school. The Learning Centre always felt like a safe place for me and I enjoyed my time there. Due to struggling with my learning difficulties I did not have much self-belief that I could further my education post-HSC but the teachers at Emanuel were always so encouraging and provided me with extra help if I needed it. I did not attain a high enough ATAR to get into my degree so I went to TAFE for two years and studied Legal Services. I was then accepted into the University of Western Sydney but I was determined to achieve a high enough grade to get into UNSW. After one year, I was accepted there and I have just finished my three-year degree and am very much looking forward to my future career. I am not



WANT TO SHARE OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS?

Please contact Sonia on
snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au
to see about getting them in the next issue.

Jewish International Film Festival

From the end of October to mid-November, Sydney celebrated a wide variety of Jewish films at the Jewish International Film Festival.

One of the films, "Pockets of Hope", had its world premier screening here in Sydney on 1 November. This film was directed and produced by international award-winning Sydney-based film-maker and Emanuel past parent, Judy Menczel, (mother of **Zoe Menczel Schrire**, Class of 2012). This documentary portrays Klezmer Diva Fay Sussman's moving story about returning to perform in Poland. It is about the Holocaust, about past conflict and relationships between Poles and Jews, about overcoming fear and anger, and about reconciliation. It takes a candid look at Poland today, involving a roller coaster of emotion.

www.pocketsofhopemovie.com

There are numerous other Emanuel community connections to this film. Zdunska Wola, one of the towns featured, is the birthplace of the great-great grandparents of **Anastasia Uricher** ('15) and of the maternal grandfather of Shira Sebban, Vice President of the School Board. Alumnus **Daniel Weltlinger** ('95), an internationally-renowned violinist and composer is a member of The Klezmer Divas and although he now lives in Berlin, Daniel travels back to Sydney a number of times a year to visit family and to perform here, most recently as part of *Zohar's Nigun*, a Jewish/Jazz ensemble. He spends much of his time in Europe, travelling and playing with various ensembles and orchestras: www.danielweltlinger.com

The original music for this film was composed by alumnus **Sam Weiss** ('12), his first major composition for a full-length film.

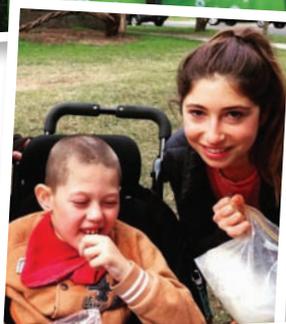


Above: Daniel Weltlinger, Fay Sussman, Emily-Rose Sarkova, John Maddox (photo by Paul Green)

Alumni giving back

Whilst our students were returning to School for the start of Term 3 at the end of July, 25 young adults, including four Emanuel alumni, **Daniel Altman**, **David Knespal**, **Jesse Moses** and **Simone Nerwich**, all from the Class of 2012, were volunteer carers/ buddies to 16 teens and young adults with special needs, at the **Friendship Circle Gold Coast Getaway**. Together with nurses and volunteer leaders, they spent four days at the Gold Coast Holiday Park, enjoying the facilities there as well as day trips to Movie World and Sea World.

Another one of the many programs organised by Friendship Circle is their week-long day camp held in Sydney for younger members of our community with special needs. At the day camp held during the July school holidays, alumni **Lexi Wolf** and **Keren Haneman** ('13) along with current students **Gabriel Wolf** and **Liron Smith** were amongst the volunteers. That week, activities included swimming, SkyZone, Kids Sports and a visit to the wild life park, as well as challah baking, ice cream making and some free play. NSW Friendship Circle (www.sydneyfc.org) was established in Sydney some years ago by Chana Kavka and her husband, Rabbi Sender Kavka. It is a registered charity based on a successful formula that has been in operation in America for almost twenty years, which brings together young people with special needs and teenage volunteers in various social situations, both one on one and in group settings. These programs aim to enable young people with special needs to experience friendship and to learn social skills



that they would not otherwise have the opportunity to develop. The children's disabilities include Autism, Down Syndrome, Global Delay and a range of other intellectual and developmental disorders which often make it difficult for these children to maintain relationships outside their immediate families. The benefits of the programs are immeasurable. The volunteers also benefit as they learn patience and kindness towards children with special needs, and many children and teens develop a real friendship, staying in touch after their volunteer time has ended.

Camp Sababa, a four-day Sony Foundation Children's Holiday Camp catering for children up to the age of 16 who have disabilities, was held at Shalom College, UNSW in early December, and run by Year 12 students who have just finished High School at the various Jewish Schools around Sydney. The Year 12 leaders partnered with the students and took them to fun activities including beach and 'Sailability'. They enjoyed dress-ups, sing-a-longs and talent shows. Big thanks go to our Class of 2015 volunteers: **Emilia Rubinstein**, **Ella Simon**, **Ilijana Avshalom**, **Arielle Sofer**, **Harrison Burnard**, **Libby Feldman**, **Anastasia**

Uricher, **Sharon Davids**, **Jenna Michalson**, **Gabriella Katz**, **Rebecca Emdor**, **Talya Jaffe**, **Micayla Laurence**, **Rachel Stanton**, **Julia Meltzer** and **Kelly Glick**. As well as these recent Emanuel graduates, a number of other Emanuel alumni, including sisters **Keren** and **Mica Haneman** also volunteered at this annual event.

Alumni Giving Back continued

- Ben Wilhelm ('08) has, in memory of his late father who died in September 2014 from pancreatic cancer, run two campaigns called "Remember September", which have been endorsed by the NSW Cancer Council and are now designated an annual event. To date, he has raised over \$31,000 for pancreatic cancer awareness



and research. During the month of September the only drink consumed by Ben and his team, a number of whom are also Emanuel graduates, is water!

- Genevieve (Genna) Radnan ('09) was recently a finalist and winner of \$10,000 in the Australian Women's Weekly Magazine competition "Women of the Future" for her work with and as Founder of 'Gennarosity Abroad'. Her prize money will help continue to support Grandma Jenny's Training Centre in Kenya. Genna also received an award from the African Australian Community for her humanitarian work.

Here is an article written by Leigh Golombick ('01) following her amazing trip to Israel in June this year.

Klal Yisrael – a Young, International Perspective

Sitting overlooking the Kinneret at the Ohalo Manor in Israel, I reflected on the eight days just passed. My journey began as I hopped off the plane, after no less than 35 hours of travel, and was immediately welcomed by several Nahum Goldmann Fellows at the airport in Tel Aviv.

After many introductions in several languages I realised that I was about to embark on an international journey with fellow Jews from every corner of the globe: Belgrade, Poland, London, Montenegro, Argentina just to name a few. The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship has been going for well over 70 years and its global reach is unprecedented.

After having applied and been accepted, I was uncertain as to what exactly the program was about. Any information available was very vague at best. In time I would learn this was all for good reason.

The program was split into two parts. The first was lecture-based, the second was group discussion-based, and of course, three delicious meals in between.

The lectures were given by esteemed professors and rabbis from all over the world. Topics such as 'Restoring an Endangered Jewish Value System', 'Replenishing Jewish Identity in Secular Society', 'Reconsidering Israel-Diaspora Relations' and 'Leadership without Easy Answers' were explored at length. The group discussions were an amalgamated mix of local Jewish politics, Zionist affairs and growing communal concerns.

Emotions soared, intellectual dialogue buzzed until the early hours of the morning and strong friendships were formed.

Shabbat rolled around in no time and before I knew it, I was sitting on the rooftop of the hotel with 40 new global Jewish friends singing *Lecha Dodi*. To my right was a Progressive Jewish Israeli living in Miami, to my left was a Polish Jew having her first *Shabbat* and behind me sat my new Jewish friend from India in her sari. It felt as if every moment in our people's history, every type of Jew walking this earth and all our cultural backgrounds had amalgamated on that rooftop in the Kinneret. We sang in the same tune, the same language and the same song generations and generations of Jews sang before us.

It hit me then what this program was all about, and why such mystery surrounded it. This program, this moment in all our lives, was unique to each of us. What we learnt, experienced and walked away with would differ as immensely as the different backgrounds from which we all came. No information booklet or online write-up

could ever quite capture this experience, as no experience was the same. The program is specifically designed to allow your background to shape the experience and allow you to take what you need from it.

For me, I learnt the following. Firstly, to be a Jew means the sum of five things:

Jewish Knowledge: All human communities are founded on specific sharing of information and knowledge; my Jewish identity is the sum of all this knowledge passed to me by my parents, my teachers, my rabbi and my friends.

Rituals – the *Mitzvot*: How I put into practice this priceless knowledge passed to me in my everyday life.

Jewish Communal and National Identity

Humility: That there are a multiplicity of opinions and approaches to Judaism; like all things, it is knowing how to work and operate in this environment of multiple opinions and respecting one another's viewpoints that are important.

Empowerment: Taking initiative and engaging all of the above.

Secondly, I came to realise how fortunate a community Australian Jewry is; how united we are, irrespective of our occasional differences. Comparing our infrastructure, communal engagement, organisational support and external pressures compared to other countries the world over, we are very blessed to be able to stand strong and engaged in all areas.

Finally and most importantly, I learnt about the concept of Klal Yisrael, a word with which prior to this Fellowship I was not familiar. Whilst no precise definition was ever presented, and heated discussion ensued for several hours about this concept, one thing was certain ... Klal Yisrael is comprised of all Jewry the world-over.

Sitting in the Ohalo conference centre were 40 individuals who grew up in different cultures, across several continents amongst very mixed cultural communities, but every single one of us stood proud of our own unique Jewish identity and we felt empowered to continue this identity for many years to come. Most importantly, each and every single one of us is a part of Israel. Whether we were born there, had made *aliyah*, visited every year, or were on our first visit, Israel was engrained in our soul. We ARE KLAL YISRAEL.

I walked away with a stronger sense of Jewish Identity, a new global network of Jewish friends and an understanding of my very important place in Klal Yisrael.

Leigh Golombick is currently working at Central Synagogue as the Manager for the Shule. Her background is accounting and human resources, having worked with Ernst & Young and Citibank for several years.

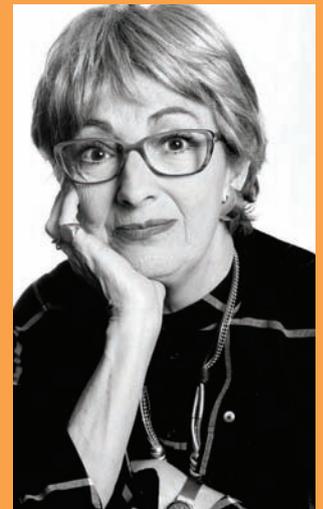


Community News

Eat, Pray, Naches

Some of you will have already heard these three words together. In fact, some of you may have seen this amazing exhibition which was officially launched in September at Waverley Library. This Waverley Council project celebrates the area's Jewish community by preserving and sharing the stories of postwar immigrants and their families. The exhibition showcases the food, rituals and joys of Jewish immigrants from Israel, the former Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, South Africa, China, Egypt and other parts of the Middle East. It promotes their courage and optimism, despite hardships experienced, and explains how they found naches at places like Bondi Beach.

Quite a few members of our Emanuel community feature in *Eat, Pray, Naches*, including the MC for the launch, Susan Bures AM, whose three children Julian, Andrew and Jessica are past students whilst her late mother, Mona Klein was a founder of the School. Current grandparents, Diane Armstrong and Eleanor Saul were also amongst those interviewed, as was alumnus Leon Goltsman ('90) who, as a Waverley Councilor was one of the instigators of the project, along with fellow Councilor Miriam Guttman-Jones whose son Adam Jones is a graduate of the School ('02) and daughter Michelle is also an Emanuel alum ('05). Simone (Havin) Collins who, as a marketing and communications professional, co-ordinated this massive project, was one of the first students at Emanuel School when it opened in 1983. The list goes on! The exhibition can still be viewed online: www.epn.org.au



Susan Bures AM



Dr Simon Holloway

Shabbat Project 2015

I am sure many of you and your families participated in this fantastic event – *Challah* baking, *Shabbat* dinner and maybe one of the numerous Saturday afternoon schmooze sessions.

This year we had wonderful opportunities for both the High School and Primary students in the week leading up to and following The Shabbat Project weekend.

Students in Years K-6 had special programming and activities during Hebrew and Jewish Studies lessons to help enrich their understanding and appreciation of *Shabbat*.

On the Wednesday evening before *Shabbat*, over 100 Emanuel High School students and staff braided, mixed and kneaded their way through the Bake Up Emanuel extravaganza. Thanks to Glick's generous sponsorship, each participant was able to plait and bake a *challah*, which they delivered to local senior citizens and homeless people the next day, and also took home enough freshly made dough to bake two *challot* for *Shabbat*.

The Emanuel School community, from Kornmehl to Year 12, came together for a special *Shabbat* celebration on the Friday morning involving songs, music and brachot, and then at lunchtime there was Israeli music and dancing to help everyone get into the spirit of *Shabbat*. The following Monday morning saw the conclusion of our 2015 Shabbat Project festivities with a whole-school *Havdalah* ceremony.

Alumnus Dr Simon Holloway ('97) was one of the Eastern Suburbs Shabbat afternoon Schmooze speakers as part of the recent Shabbat Project. "My talk was called *A Fat Rabbi, a Gladiator and the Consequences of a Stupid Joke*. In it, I presented the tragicomedy of two 3rd century Palestinian rabbis, Yohanan bar Nafcha and Shimon ben Lakish. The former, while described as being enormous in girth, is also said (by himself, amongst others) to have been the most beautiful man of his generation; the latter, described variously as a former gladiator and as a reformed bandit, was a philosopher. The two, under curious circumstances and after a comic case of mistaken

identity, become colleagues, brothers-in-law and best friends. There is more or less a Talmudic bromance, but it ends tragically, and gives us pause to consider the importance of being careful with one's speech and of respecting the feelings of others. Above

all (and most importantly, in my opinion), the passage succeeds in touting the virtues of 'combative dialectics' – of heated argument on an issue of contention. Ultimately, watching what one says and respecting another's feelings does not preclude disagreeing with them strongly. For the rabbis of the Talmud, as for us, the important issue is how we argue: with the intention not of breaking down our opponents but of building up the topic that we agree is worth having an argument about."

Simon completed his PhD this year at the University of Sydney, with his thesis titled "The King is a Tree: Arboreal Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible". As the title suggests, it was an investigation into the use of tree-related metaphors in the biblical literature – particularly insofar as they stood for specific kings, or for the general office of kingship.

Simon has previously presented at *Limmud Oz* and numerous other community-based events. "Currently, I teach Holocaust at the Sydney Jewish Museum, Jewish history at Melton, and occasionally I lecture at Sydney University on matters pertaining to Jewish history, Biblical Studies and (when I am very, very lucky) the early rabbinic literature – which is my preferred field in Classical Hebrew and Biblical Studies. My research interests include the historical development of Classical Hebrew, the 'interface' between linguistics and literary criticism, and the Hebrew Bible as literature."

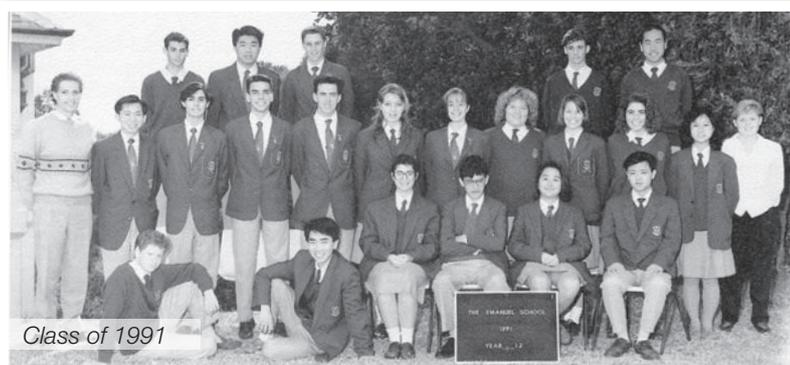


Reunions planned for 2016

- 25 Years – Class of 1991
- 20 Years – Class of 1996
- 15 Years – Class of 2001
- 10 Years – Class of 2006
- 5 Years – Class of 2011

If you are from one of these year groups and would like to help organise your reunion, please let me know:

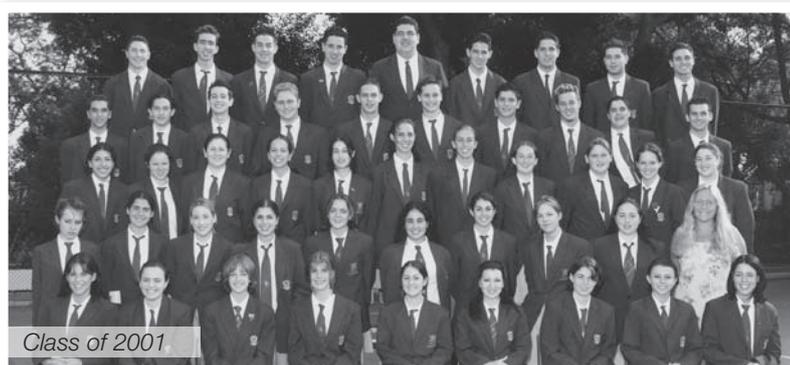
snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au



Class of 1991



Class of 1996



Class of 2001



Class of 2006



Class of 2011

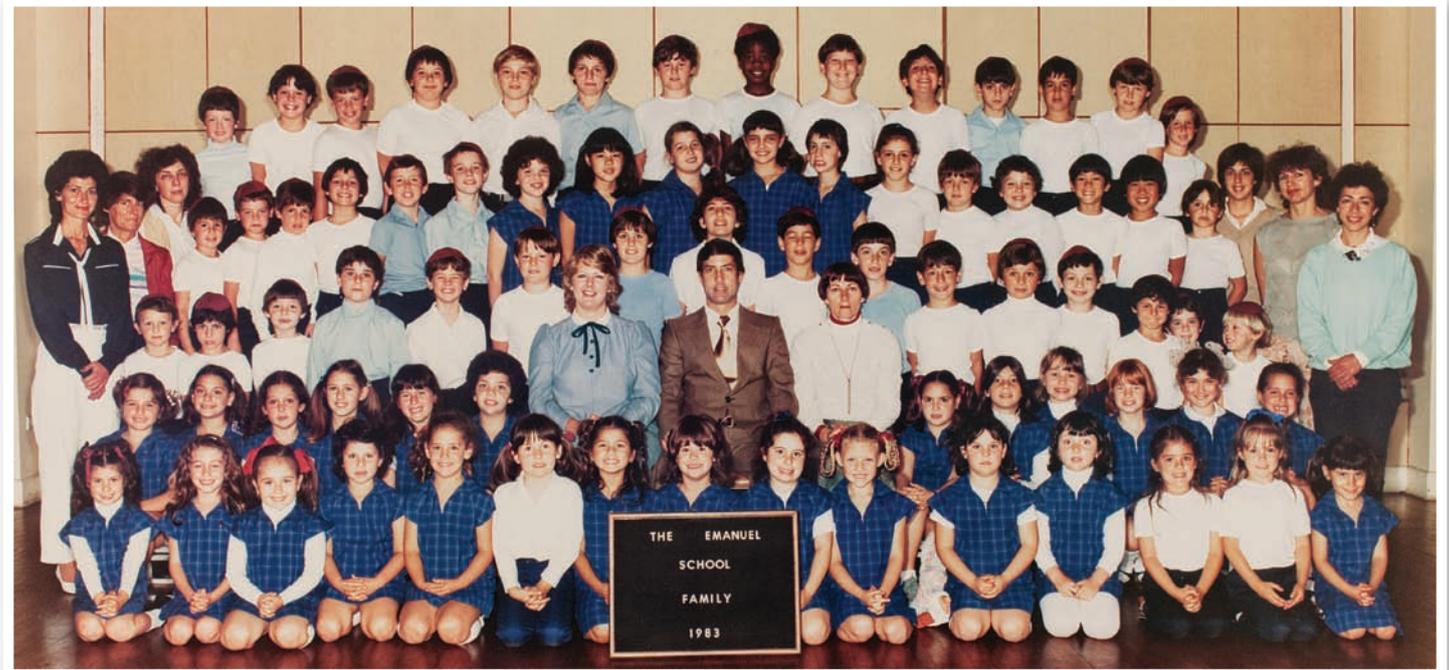
Staying In Touch

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.

The Emanuel School Family 1983

We are now only missing six 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 Kotek, Gavin Sorauer, Guy Ravy, David Hirst, Greg Weisz, Anton Boski, Lindi Smith, Felicia Meric, Nadine Weinberger, Marina Goldshmid, Solonge Boski, Sarona Pilcer, Denis Zilberman, Maxim Bolkovsky, _____, 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 Stolier.
- 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.

What's your news?

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

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

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 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



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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