



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Alumni

# NEWS

December 2016

Kislev 5777

Vol 8 Issue 2



## From the Development Office

What an amazing year 2016 has been, with so much happening for our alumni both here at School and also out in the wider community!

Our alumni continue to give back to the School in so many ways – debating, music and sport just to name a few.

At the end of July, we had the B'nai B'rith/JNF Changemaker Awards Night here in the Millie Phillips Theatre. Seven Emanuel alumni were nominated for the various awards and alum **Nathan Holloway** ('04) was joint winner (with Sophie Levy, who runs the Friendship Bakery) of the B'nai B'rith Award for Leadership. See page 7 for more details.

E-Zone 2016, an annual careers event for our Year 11 and 12 students, was held in August, and this year, seven of the ten presenters were Emanuel alumni. The students were captivated as they listened to each speaker's journey since leaving School – see page 8.

On 11 September a group of 11 alumni returned to School for our inaugural Senior Chamber Choir and Alumni Concert in the Millie Phillips Theatre. It truly was a night of sheer delight. The audience of close to 200 people was entertained by beautiful voices for about an hour and a half. If you were a member of one of the School choirs and would like to join us for this event next year, to be held on Sunday 20 August 2017, please let me know.

We welcome our newest group of alumni, the Class of 2016. We wish them all the very best for their journey in the big wide world and look forward to hearing about their plans post-School.

Many of our graduates leave this campus after finishing School to return at some stage down the track – perhaps to help with various school-based activities and/or for particular events, whilst others return as parents having enrolled their own children. We currently have a very special group of five alumni, who are now here as members of staff. The latest alum recruit is **Daniel Samowitz** ('04) who wrote an entertaining article in *Ma Nishma* titled "Jewish Life *Madrich*" – see page 10. **Katie (Levenson) Narunsky**, a primary



Senior Chamber Choir and Alumni Concert



Senior Chamber Choir and Alumni Concert



Daniel Samowitz, Talia Hynek, Katie Narunsky, Genna Radnan and Adam Ezekiel

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Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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teacher now, graduated in 1989 as a member of the very first Emanuel School Year 12 graduating year and is also now a School parent with her three children enrolled here. **Talia Hynek** ('08) is one of our Year 1 teachers, whilst **Genna Radnan** ('09) is our School Nurse and **Adam Ezekiel** ('07) teaches PDHPE and sport.

### A first at Emanuel School.

**Jake Green**, the younger son of Sylvia and David Green, has just completed Year 12 here, whilst his older brother **Ben** is a graduate of the Class of 1999. Ben's older daughter, Maddison (Maddy) attends Kornmehl Pre-school whilst his younger daughter Hannah will be starting at Kornmehl next year. This means that Sylvia and David have been both Emanuel parents and grandparents at the same time this year – how special is that!

Our third annual student vs alumni sports challenge was held on Tuesday 6 December. See page 8 for details and photos.

Five and ten-year class reunions are happening in December for the Class of 2011 and 2006 respectively, and plans are underway for the Class of 1996 20 year reunion, to be held early next year. We will post some photos on the alumni Facebook page, so keep a look-out.

It is with much sadness that we note the recent passing of George Fisher, Maths teacher here from 2000 to 2003. George loved staying in touch with his students and attended a number of our alumni reunions over the years. He is pictured here at the Class of 2001 ten-year reunion in 2011. We wish his family Long Life. One of his former students, **Lisa (Shapiro) Greenberg** ('01) writes "Mr Fisher's maths classes were often filled with jokes and stories that got us thinking. He encouraged us to extend & challenge ourselves and helped many of us achieve beyond our expectations. He was a brilliant teacher who was kind and caring. It is very sad to hear of his sudden passing but he certainly left behind a legacy for many of us who were lucky to have been in his classes."

**Sonia Newell, Development Officer**



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni of Emanuel School,

It is a surprise that we are so quickly at the end of the school year. It has been a fast-paced and successful year and already we are well into planning for 2017. Our school has close to full enrolments and we are continuing to improve the facilities by renovating some of the spaces.

This term we opened our new Kindergarten rooms – beautiful new, vibrant spaces designed especially for our small Emanuel students.

Formerly the Nuns' laundry and more recently our Art block, the new Kindergarten precinct provides a cottage-like, welcoming atmosphere in two light and bright classrooms. The children excitedly began this term there, and are very much enjoying their new environment. Over the December/January break, we are hoping to install an engaging new playground for them in front of their classrooms.

We are currently in the process of renovating the classrooms in the Adler block, so that Years 5 & 6 can move in there at the beginning of next year. Because of plans to rebuild the High School Library and Museum building so that we have up-to-date Design & Technology kitchen and Innovation spaces, along with new classrooms and Museum space, we will keep our demountable building, lovingly termed 'X Block', until these plans come to fruition.

Some of our recent graduates might be interested to know that Dr Sally Cove, Head of History, is sadly leaving us this year. Sally came to Emanuel School nine years ago, planning to stay only nine months. That we have had the benefit of her expertise in teaching History for that length of time is a great privilege. Many of you would remember her quest for deep thinking and high standards set for each student. She has seen many very notable excellent achievements in History at HSC level over the years. We are very grateful to Sally for sharing her amazing knowledge and skills with our students and wish her well for her next adventure.

We held a beautiful ceremony at the beginning of Term 4 to honour our long-serving staff members. Each person who has been at Emanuel School for ten or more years was given a metal leaf to be placed on our gratitude tree, which is near Reception.

We invite you to take a look at our gratitude tree and all the other renovations when next you are at the School. You are always welcome!

Best wishes

**Anne Hastings, Principal**



## Emanuel on Social Media



### LinkedIn

As we update our Emanuel School LinkedIn page, we encourage you to connect with us.

[www.linkedin.com/company/emanuel-school](http://www.linkedin.com/company/emanuel-school)



### Alumni Facebook Page

This 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 have over 600 members now. Please join if you are not a member as yet, and stay in touch. Feel free to post on this page if you want to connect with other alumni. This page is yours and we would love to hear from you. Here is the link to join: [www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/emanuel.oldscholars/)

### Emanuel Shuk

This is the place to swap, sell, buy and advertise pre-loved and new items, holiday homes and cars...in fact anything that is of value (actual or perceived) can be advertised here. If you have a business, you are welcome to tell us what you do, but please make it interesting and a special offer for the Emanuel community is always a bonus! There are rules to posting – please check out the pinned post for these. Here is the link to join: [www.facebook.com/groups/Emanuelshuk/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/Emanuelshuk/)



MAR  
26

## Save the Date

Jazz on the Hill 2017

Sunday 26 March 2pm to 5pm

We hope you will join us for a relaxed afternoon of music here at School! If you have Primary school-aged children, they will be entertained by a variety of supervised craft activities whilst you chill on the hill! Perhaps you are a soloist musician or a member of a band and might be interested in performing at this annual event? For further details please email: [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)

## Tree of Appreciation and Celebration of Staff

At the start of Term 4, the School recognised years of service of our staff. Each current staff member, who has worked at the School for five or more years, was awarded a certificate whilst those with ten or more years' service, was awarded a "leaf" that was then placed on the tree designed by alum Joel Adler ('11). Here is a quote from Primary School teacher Anna Economou (20 years at Emanuel School):

"I just wanted to thank you and the wider school community for the recognition of all the staff members, who have contributed to the School over the past five years or more. It was such a thoughtful and meaningful way in which to be recognised and I will personally treasure the experience, warm words and gifts, which the Emanuel community bestowed upon me and my fellow colleagues. Thank you for all the efforts you and your staff went to, to make it such a memorable celebration. I think it has again reminded us all just how special Emanuel is and why so many of us have stayed at such a vibrant and innovative place. What a wonderful way to end a day of collaborative learning and looking to the future."

I am sure you will recognise some of your teachers in this photograph.....teachers who have given 20 plus years of service to our amazing School:



*Connecting the Emanuel School Community*

We hope you continue to enjoy reading news about your ex-classmates and other alumni, as well as what's been happening at your old School. Just a quick reminder that *Gesher* is the Hebrew word for "bridge" and so under the banner of *Gesher* we invite you to friend/fun-raising (not fund-raising) events that bring all

members of our amazing School community together! We love that many of our alumni come back to School, some as parents, others to help with activities for students such as debating, sport and homework club, just to name a few. This year's E-Zone in August saw seven alumni out of the ten presenters telling their story to senior students about their career paths and insights post-school. We really appreciate the time many of you give to volunteer here at School, and we thank you for your contributions to the life of our amazing School and community. If this year coincided with your School reunion, we hope you attended and enjoyed the event!

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

# Staying in Touch

## Engagements

- Chaz Heitner ('01) and Sharri Markson (1)
- Sivan Feigen ('09) and Michael Stern (2)
- Sarah Grolman ('09) and Matteo Bisori (3)
- Nicola Kobilski ('09) and David Mintz ('09) (4)
- Sophie Weisz ('09) and Daniel Kerner (5)



## Weddings

- Shannon Selby ('01) and Sara Beth Watson  
26 June 2016 in USA (6)
- Leora Ohayon ('08) and Asher Gavriel,  
2 September 2016, in Israel (7)
- Rob Simons ('04) and Ilana Berman, 5 September  
2016 in London, plus boys on tour #fellasantour  
with Nathan Ezekiel, Daniel Samowitz,  
Jesse Levy, Nathan Holloway, Shaun Janks,  
Rob Simons and Guy Rob at Hero Square  
Budapest Hungary. (8 & 9)
- Paul Zines ('03) and Nicole Langbart,  
25 September 2016 (10)
- Charlotte Lewis ('09) and Robbie Weiss ('09),  
20 November 2016 (11)
- Jessica Lewis ('04) and Joji Kurosaki,  
27 November 2016 (12)



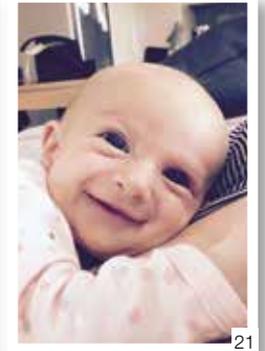
## Births

- Einav Leshetz Lovatt ('01) and Mark Lovatt  
Theodore Lovatt, born 20 February 2016 in  
London, brother to Nathaniel (13)
- Stanya Sharota ('00) and Anthony Lenthén  
Marlo Sanyi Sharota Lenthén, born 27 May 2016,  
brother to India (14)
- Gena (Rosenberg) '02 and Tony Been  
Winona Gracie, born 17 June 2016 (15)
- Alisa (Newman) '01 and Jeffrey Siale  
Arabella Georgiana Siale, born 1 September 2016,  
sister to Leila (16)
- Jonathon Feller ('01) and Tina Sade  
Rory Clara Feller-Sade, born 25 July 2016 (17)
- Tammy and Gary Poslinsky ('02) – Ethan born  
19 September 2016, brother to Dylan (18)
- Lexi Landsman ('02) and Ricky Clennar  
Jamie born 22 September 2016 (19)



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

- **Anna (Gankin)** '02 and Chris Robinson – Ella Olive, born 3 October 2016 (Anna's birthday!), sister to Katie and Lucy (20)
- **Jessica and Daniel Krigstein** ('04) – Charlotte Lily, born 7 October 2016 (21)
- **Sarah and Aiden Levy** ('02)– Jake Harry, born 8 October 2016 (22)
- **Aliza (Denberg)** '00 and Adam Hofbauer – Abi Sanna, born 7 November, sister to Sammy (23)
- **Ilana (Waxman)** '05 and Adam Symonds ('99) – Samara Eve, born 10 November 2016, sister to Jonah (24)
- **Samantha (Kassell)** '04 and Greg Edelmuth – Jasper Riley, born on 27 November 2016 (25)
- **Claudia Maman** ('89) and Adriano De Melo – twin boys, Kobe and Jordan, born 7 December 2016, brothers to Ethan De Melo (26)



## Life after School

- **Jonathan Kummerfeld** ('05) recently completed his PhD in Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley *Mazal Tov!* (27)
- **Battle of the Bands 2016, Rock Against Racism**, a B'nai B'rith initiative held on 3 April, is an annual competition for High School student bands and the winners' prize this year was the opportunity to perform at the Shir Madness Music Festival held at iconic Bondi Pavilion in September. Emanuel School Year 12 student band, "Before the King" – drummer **Gabriel (Gabe) Jammy**, **Asher Klein** on guitar, **Dean Smuskowitz**, vocals and **Daniel Radomsky** on bass guitar won the competition and are pictured here on stage at Shir Madness. No longer students, they are now members of our newest group of alumni – the Class of 2016. (28)



Welcome to our newest Alumni members, the graduating Class of 2016



# E-Zone 2016

This event, for our Year 11 and 12 students, is organised to give them a brief insight into some of the traditional and not-so-traditional career paths and to hear the journey of how our presenters arrived at where they are today. When you look at this list of speakers, you may question gender bias – it was NOT intentional! The female alumni we approached to present were overseas at the time but will hopefully be available for our 2017 event. If you have an interesting story to tell about your career path after school that you think our senior students might like to hear, please let me know. This year our Alumni presenters were:

## Simon Masnick ('90): Finance

Managing Director, Global Head of Fixed Income Trading, Westpac. Responsible for all of Westpac's trading in fixed income markets globally, responsible for 34 people across New Zealand, Australia, Asia and London. "This job involves constantly thinking about everything that is going in the world (not just economics) and what that means for markets and our customers. We get to watch and participate in the first rough draft of history as it is being made...and have some fun along the way!"



## Shaun Greenblo ('03): Entrepreneurship

General Manager, Boody Bamboo Eco Wear. "I am proud to be involved in a business I love, selling a product I am passionate about that is good for the environment and the people who wear it."



## Alan Harca ('03): Films, Media and Entertainment

Film and Commercial Director. "As a freelance director, I oversee creative vision when directing commercial content for global advertising agencies and film studios. I continue to work predominantly in Los Angeles, New York City and Sydney. Nothing is more entertaining and exhilarating than when I see one of my commercials on television somewhere around the world. Connecting with an audience in a cinema through film is just one of the most unexplainable feelings. It is incredible." [www.alan-harca.com](http://www.alan-harca.com)



## David Mizrahi ('05): Medical Research

PhD Student at UNSW. Clinical Tutor and Researcher at UNSW. Accredited Exercise Physiologist. "I love that my research is helping to show scientifically the importance of exercise in the management of certain cancers in women."



## Chaz Heitner ('01): Entrepreneur/Business

Business Builder and Start-up Investor currently working on his next business which is building technology products to enable people to be successful in their careers in the 21st century/ technology age. He says "I love that I get to work with (and invest in) incredibly talented people working on hard problems to make meaningful impact."



Chaz co-founded ASX listed fintech company Zipmoney Ltd, was previously Founder and CEO of SeeMedia Group and started his career in Investment Banking with Macquarie Bank. He is currently an observer on the Emanuel School board as part of the JCA Observership Program, which was founded in 2012 to facilitate the involvement of young, talented and energetic individuals in a structured experience on non-profit Boards.

## Simon Jankelson ('02): Human Sound Project

Founder, Director, Facilitator of the Human Sound Project, Musician and Music facilitator bringing people together to create collective music. "I have always loved playing music and I use my skills to help empower people from so many different cultures, religions and socio-economic backgrounds around the world, to create new songs about their stories" [www.thehumansoundproject.com](http://www.thehumansoundproject.com)



## Kevin Jankelowitz ('01): Entrepreneurship, Health and Wellbeing

Founder and Chief Meditation Officer at Centred Meditation. "I implement our company's vision of helping urban professionals to gain a greater sense of confidence, clarity and calm. And I love what I do because each day I make a real difference in people's lives." [www.centredmeditation.com.au](http://www.centredmeditation.com.au)



# Is 2017 the year for your **School Reunion?**

Yes it is if you finished Year 12 in  
1992, 1997, 2002, 2007 or 2012.

We are looking for one or two  
volunteers from each of these year  
groups to help get your reunion  
organised. Please let me know if  
you would like to help:

[snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au)



## 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.

# B'nai B'rith/JNF Changemaker Awards 2016

An annual event to honour and acknowledge the inspiring contributions made by young Jewry in our society. Emanuel alumni nominees in the Young Adult section (ages 18 to 35) this year were:

- **Leah Grolman** ('08): for her advocacy work for the rights of persons with disabilities and their families.
- **Nathan Holloway** ('04): joint winner (with Sophie Levy) of the B'nai B'rith Award for Leadership – for his work leading the Stand Up's Derech Eretz program for Jewish university-aged volunteers to the Indigenous communities.
- **Sam Koslowski** ('12): inaugural facilitator and mentor for the Sydney Jewish Leaders project (JLP).

- **Joshua Moses** ('11): for his work with AUJS and the Birthright Program.



- **Genevieve (Genna) Radnan** ('08): founder and CEO of Genarosity Abroad, Grandma Jenny's Training Centre; [www.genarosityabroad.org](http://www.genarosityabroad.org)

- **Harry Rutner** ('11): community volunteering; established his own radio station with help from UNSW and has over 15 shows and 30 volunteers.



- **Ben Wilhelm** ('08): Remember September 2016 raised a whopping \$27,062 for Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation, with a total of \$60,000 in its three years of existence!

As Ben says:

"Remember September exists to honour the memory of ALL our loved ones who are currently fighting, or have sadly lost their battle with pancreatic cancer. Together, we will grow each year, striving to raise awareness and funding for research that will #MakeSurvivalPossible."

[www.rememberseptember2016.gofundraise.com.au](http://www.rememberseptember2016.gofundraise.com.au)



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

## Third annual student vs alumni sport challenge

High School Sports Madricha, **Amy Altman**, organised the student teams for our third annual student vs alumni sports challenge, held at lunchtime on Tuesday 6 December. In preparation for this event, Amy liaised closely with alumna **Sarah Beder** ('15) who organised the alumni teams. It was wonderful to see girls involved this year for the first time, introducing a new sport to this challenge with a mixed netball team.

The inaugural event in 2014 saw the alumni futsal team beat the student team 8-7, whilst last year the score was 5-5 with the student futsal team winning on penalties. The competition was fierce, with the student team out to beat the alumni team again.



From Amy: "Lunchtime brought an excited bunch of students and alumni down to the MPH and basketball courts. Two friendly games – futsal and netball – kicked off with music playing in the background, in an air conditioned MPH and on a sunny basketball court. An exciting game of futsal saw our student team winning 9-5, whilst a more relaxed netball game continued without a winner emerging. The day was an all-round success and I can proudly say that we all 'had a ball!'"

Sarah: "Alumni from the Class of 2015 and 2016 took part in this third sports challenge. It was an enjoyable return to the school for the alumni, especially as the games finished just before the rain. This year for the first time, there were two alumni teams, one playing netball and the other indoor soccer, alongside and against current students from a range of year groups. We hope to field an all-alum netball team next year and might even manage to beat the student team in futsal!"

# Sydney Jewish Museum

Yotam Weiner, Education Manager at Sydney Jewish Museum since 2013 is an Emanuel Alumnus (Class of 1998) and also a past member of staff, teaching here from January 2010 until June 2013.

He writes “as I am sure you are aware, our Museum education programs rely heavily on volunteer guides who meet school students in the Museum and teach them about the Holocaust and Judaism.

We have just launched a very large recruitment drive – we are operating a course next year to teach people how to guide in the Museum (details below) and I would really appreciate if you are able to spread the word. It is vital to the smooth running of the Museum that we recruit a new group of passionate, interested people. Feel free to spread the word among friends, family and colleagues! Historically, we have found that many people find it worthwhile to become a volunteer guide in the Museum during their retirement. But, we’re not ageist and would love anyone who is interested and passionate to get involved!”



## Volunteer

We invite you to become a guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Our volunteers are a committed and conscientious group whose expertise, energy and enthusiasm help visitors to connect with the Museum in a deep and lasting way. By sharing their knowledge and personal experiences,

Museum guides encourage our school and adult groups to think meaningfully about the past, the Museum and the world we live in today.

To become a guide, first complete our Generation to Generation Guide Course: a seminar series operating on Tuesdays, 28 February to 1 August, which includes historical lectures, artefact exploration and practical sessions on the Museum floor. Participants will learn about Holocaust history, Judaism, Jewish history, culture, tradition and the history of Jews in Australia.

For information and to apply click here:

[www.tinyurl.com/p3zxzah](http://www.tinyurl.com/p3zxzah) or email: [volunteer@sjm.com.au](mailto:volunteer@sjm.com.au)

## Where are some of our Alumni now?

### Jonathon Feller Class of 1992

“After finishing Year 12, I was accepted into a BA Communications degree at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst. I was not ready for tertiary study and enquired as to whether I could defer for 12 months. Unfortunately, deferring was not an option so I struggled through a degree that I hated and did not complete, returning to Sydney three years later “empty-handed” albeit with a lot of “life lessons”. So, I did not end up in print journalism. I moved into banking after my failed university experience and from banking I transitioned to commercial property finance, working for a leading finance originator until the GFC dashed my ambitions of achieving ten years with that firm. In 2009, I took myself back to school where I completed my Bachelor of Business at UTS majoring in Management and Business Law. Upon completing my degree, I commenced employment at the family property firm that my grandfather and great uncle established in the 1960’s.

I did not investigate the opportunity of working overseas when I was younger and travel has never been a major drawcard generally. My travel experiences are somewhat limited and my favourite destination (in all sincerity) is Melbourne. I travel for work and not pleasure.

You ask, “what are your fondest memories of Emanuel School?” I’m going to be “careful” here.... “Mariela Brozky” is my fondest memory of TES (and she knows it after we caught up at the 30-Year Anniversary Celebration at the School three years ago).



I am not really in touch with my group of friends from School. The Class of 1992 comprised 24 students and six of these returned to their country of origin after the HSC. Accordingly, there are 18 personalities (including me) from this year. As work, relationships and family become more involved, it is harder to catch up. That said, I am proud to have completed my secondary education with my former classmates. I hate to say it, however, Facebook has been instrumental in linking post-school connections with my former classmates.

I also repeated Year 11; my first attempt was “ineffective” and I was concerned that even if I applied myself in Year 12 1991, the overall effort would be “unremarkable”. It was hard to leave a class that I had been with for six years and see them finish before me. However, it was the correct decision “overall”.

I am currently the Company Secretary of Varga Brothers Investments (“VBI”). The company was established by my grandfather and great uncle; both Holocaust survivors who lost their initial families in the death camps. They rebuilt after WWII, re-marrying and coming to Australia from Hungary with their “new” families as refugees in 1948. Arriving with nothing, they fostered a platform for their descendants, through perseverance and sacrifice. It is an honour and privilege to be an employee of my Papa’s company and to try and uphold his legacy for our next generations – even more so when I still hold letters (via a typewriter that I wrote to my Nana reporting on my day when I used to do work in their city office as a teenager).

In ten years’ time I would like to be fully engaged at work with a post-graduate degree “on the wall”. My Papa was visiting one of his buildings to collect rent on the day that he had a heart attack in 1980. Accordingly, it is in my DNA to never retire. That said, I would hope that our ambition to grow the platform and subsequently extend our philanthropic activities is deliverable.”

## Jennifer Kassell Class of 2001

There was a great article in the Australian Jewish News on 28 October, featuring Lady Gaga wearing a very special leather jacket! The brand Understated Leather ([www.understatedleather.com](http://www.understatedleather.com)) was born in Austin, Texas, the brainchild of Jennifer and her husband Josh Jones.

**What did you do after finishing Year 12?** "Ok, now I feel old. I was already working in the fashion industry during school days. In a nutshell, when I left school I attended COFA and was working as the buyer for Australia's then largest fashion website. At the same time, I was also working as global sales & PR manager for Alice McCall. It was interesting to balance both positions, and to experience the industry from two sides at the same time. Both jobs sent me around the world a few times a year, both buying lines from designers as well as selling to leading global stores. As the online store grew exponentially, my position evolved into that of fashion director and required all of my time. After nine years there I moved to New York and opened a showroom representing Australian brands while still buying freelance for stores in Australia. After a year I was head hunted by a large fashion house in California called Planet Blue and so I moved there to be their Fashion Director. About a year or so later, I moved to Austin, Texas and married my husband which is when we started our own brand – Understated Leather. That was a little over two years ago."

**Did you follow your field of study at the time?** "Not at all – I studied a Bachelor of Fine Arts. It was very enjoyable but it has had no influence on my career path whatsoever. All of the skills that I have needed were either learned in the field taught by incredible mentors or erupted organically. I did not study fashion at any point in my life. My first trip overseas was with a former Emanuel student Tal (Assoulin) Manning when we were 18. Since then I have been to many countries due to work commitments from places like India to Europe, UK, Asia and the USA where I have lived for the last five years. My husband and I own a fashion brand called Understated Leather. We develop pieces for some major fashion accounts here in the USA and have dressed celebrities including Lady Gaga, Beyonce, Kendal Jenner, January Jones, Rita Ora, Emma Roberts – to name a few. It's great to be our own boss and work together every day. Each day we collaborate with many of our creative friends from other brands to photographers, models and general fashion experts. It's a pretty great gig to work every day with your life partner and friends, be your own boss and do what you love. The fact that we have a nice following is just a bonus... (a big one)."

**What got you into the industry / when did you become interested in fashion?** "I never made a conscious decision to enter the fashion world, it was more of a gradual progression. I was exposed to the business from a young age through family and older friends who I admired. I was connected to the things that these designers were doing rather than the idea of fashion as a career. I knew that I wanted to be a part of that, not because I thought it was cool, but because it just felt right."

**Was there an 'aha' moment, or a person was an inspiration to you?** "The first person to inspire a sense of self-expression through fashion was my grandmother, Hilda. Her ensembles matched her loud and wild personality. I loved that about her. I guess that I



wanted to emulate this visual element of self-expression at some capacity."

**Do you miss living in Sydney / do you come home from time to time?**

"I do miss Sydney. It was really difficult for the first few years. I grew up in Bondi,

so the whole area is seeded with memories.

When I think about my childhood – it's all there in Bondi. There is no other place in the world where I will ever feel that connected. Originally, I was coming home once a year for the first few years, mixing business with pleasure and visiting over fashion week. Since starting our business I have not been home, however, I am planning to come visit soon as my little sister Samantha has just had her first baby, which is very exciting for our family. I haven't been back to Emanuel since my sister graduated in 2004. I would love to come back and see some familiar faces."

**Did you ever dream that your ambitions would take off the way they have?** "None of this was planned but I never questioned any of it either. I worked really hard from a young age to climb that ladder. What I have achieved in my career is the result of continual perseverance combined with an incredible support system. My family and friends have been nothing short of amazing, supporting me every single inch of the way. No matter what happened, I always knew they would be proud and that gave me the drive I needed to keep going."

## Danielle (Lewis) Wakerman Class of 2001

"I started at Emanuel School in Kindergarten and all of my childhood memories include days at the School or in the uniform with our little dicky ties. I started at Emanuel when the classes were really small and the kids we went through school with were akin to family. It was a very special time to be a part of the Emanuel family and all of my memories are very fond ones.

Straight from school I went to university to study Social Work, something I had always assumed I would do.

I sort of followed my field of study... I worked hard to land a position working in foster care but after University I went straight over to London with a uni friend for a year where we worked and travelled. We lived all over the place and had some amazing experiences, and when I returned home I took a job with Jewish Care who offered me a position in aged care, which wasn't what I had ever imagined I would want to do...lo and behold ten years later, I am still working in aged care, not quite as a social worker, but my skills have been very useful.



## Where are some of our Alumni now? continued

I see some people from school with whom I have a really special friendship.

I am currently still working in aged care in community services for Montefiore Home Care where I have been for many years, but have since started a business with my husband in the world of children's literature.

We have written and published a series of children's books called "Jett around the world".

Each book is set in a different city around the world and is about a young boy who travels to these cities and explores the cultures and people. Each book comes with a sticker page and a passport and we have just started producing additional merchandise.

The books have become our main focus and we are now writing the next. Our true mission was to develop a series we would want our kids to read but also to somehow find a way to give back, so we have been partnering with under-privileged schools around the world and have promised that for every 1000 books we sell, we will donate 1000 books to schools and classrooms that need them.

I am also now a mum to a beautiful two-year-old girl and am pregnant with number two. As a family, we of course love to travel and explore and I hope we never lose that.

In ten years I hope to still be writing books with my husband, whether it be this series or the next, and gosh, I'll have kids in High School...that's a scary thought!"

You can read more about Danielle and Adam's books:  
[www.jettaroundtheworld.com](http://www.jettaroundtheworld.com)

## Daniel Samowitz Class of 2004

Here is an article that appeared in the weekly School newsletter *Ma Nishma* early in Term 4.

### Our new Jewish life madrich

"My name is Samo (Daniel Samowitz).

I was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and at the age of 14 I immigrated to Sydney. Emanuel School swiftly became my second home. Much has happened since then.

For the last eight years, I chose to devote my life to the Zionist dream, living and breathing an Israeli Jewish reality committed to bettering the State through youth educational activities for Israelis and also for Jews from around the world. My aim was to educate people from many different cultures and backgrounds to see themselves as vital members of the Jewish people and the Zionist movement. They were very rewarding years.

And, now I'm back .... The question I am asked most often, by virtue of my really weird accent, is: Where are you from? Although geographically incorrect, and I apologise to the English teachers reading this, my answer is I'm Jewish. I choose to be responsible for the Jewish people and this is what brings me back to Emanuel School where I first learned about Mind, Spirit and Being.

I arrived at Emanuel in Year 9, class of 2004, and in Emanuel I found the community,



Jewish philosophy and lifelong friends that would give me the foundation to try and live a meaningful and good life. To this day I call the cohort of class of 2004 my closest friends. There is no need for Sonia Newell to organise a reunion because we meet up every Wednesday night.

I have been involved in the youth movement scene for the last 15 years – here in Australia, in Israel and many Jewish communities in the world, especially North America, Europe and South Africa. I'm excited to bring back my passion for Jewish life, Zionism and informal value-based education to Emanuel students.

I believe that Judaism can be a powerful prism through which to lead a life of responsibility, happiness and meaning. Jewish values should be the foundation of a moral compass that will give the students an ability to be critical thinkers and exist in a rapidly changing world, whilst having the tools to deal with whatever dilemma is thrown their way.

Big questions need to be engaged with, such as, What should I do after school? What does Zionism look like in 2016? What kind of pizza do I like? What does Judaism say about racism? And, most importantly, for students to have more personal and relevant answers for the age old question: Why be Jewish?"

## 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.

Fill out the form below and post or, send an email to Sonia Newell at [snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au](mailto:snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au).

Name .....

Years at Emanuel.....

Special News .....

.....

.....

Current Postal Address .....

Telephone (mobile preferred).....

Email .....

Please return this form to:

Emanuel School Alumni, Attention: Sonia Newell, PO Box 202 Randwick NSW 2031

# 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 Freeny, Ronnie Aron, Ari Marks, Christian Charnas, Yonaton Miller, Ben Donally, Ronen Stolar.
- 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.

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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