



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Grandparents & Friends

NEWS

June 2015

Tammuz 5775

Vol 7 Issue 1



from the Development Office

We are now half way through the year – time just flies! We hope this latest newsletter finds you and your family well.

We wish grandparent Dr David Golovsky *Mazal Tov* on being made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in this year's Australia Day Honours. He was president of the Wolper Hospital, Woollahra from 2009 to 2014, and was honoured for his significant service to medicine, particularly in the fields of urology and fertility.

We have had a very busy first half of the year – *Purim* celebrations, *sederim*, our annual Kindergarten Pathways Ceremony, *Shavuot* festivities and many other activities. We are really excited to announce our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day will be held on Friday 11 September, to coincide with *Rosh Hashanah* and *Kabbalat Shabbat*. You will receive an invitation by email or by post if we do not have an email address for you. Our Parents and Friends Association has chosen a Golf Day at Bonnie Doon on Thursday 29 October as our key fund-raising initiative for 2015, with proceeds to be used to enhance the playground area for the students. We hope the golfers amongst you will join us for this event!

Mazal Tov also to another one of our grandparents, Alan Joffe, who at the 2015 JCA Campaign East Communal Event and Awards Night on 14 June, received the Shofar Award for his ten years plus outstanding community service. Alan has been on the Board of the Shalom Institute for the past ten years and has been their Honorary Treasurer for the past six years. He has also worked with Ernie Friedlander, President, B'nai B'rith Alfred Dreyfus Anti-Defamation Unit, on his Harmony Day Competition projects, doing most of the administration for the competition, which has more than 4,000 entries each year. Alan has assisted the Centre on Aging (COA) with meal deliveries every week for a number of years.

When I asked Alan what the award means to him, he said "I was both surprised and honoured to receive the award – surprised because it was totally unexpected and there are so many great volunteers within our community, and honoured to be selected from among the many great volunteers to receive the award."

Sonia Newell, Development Officer



Inside this Issue...

From the Development Office	1
From the Principal's Desk	2
Gesher Community Connections	2
Parents & Friends	3
Kornmehl Pre School.....	4
Jewish Studies Department	4
Rabbi Daniel Siegal.....	5
From a Grandparent	6
Schmooze	7



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

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EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels



From the Principal's Desk



Dear Grandparents and Friends of Emanuel School,

That we are close to half way through the year so quickly is always a mystery! We have been watching our new building grow and develop day by day and are very excited to be preparing to move in early next term. We hope that you will all be able to come and walk through this significant addition to our facilities, perhaps when you come to our Grandparents' Day for *Rosh Hashanah* late next term.

This year has seen an increase in the opportunities for our students to travel overseas and experience different cultures. At the end of 2014, we had 26 Year 10 students go to Israel on a six-week program that saw them learning about Israel's history, people, community action programs and innovations. This year we have over 50 students express their interest in going on this program (*Chavayah*). The experience has been made possible by the very generous donation of a community member and facilitated by the JCA, who have pledged to continue this support into the future. Their vision is that all Jewish students who wish to travel and learn about Israel should be able to, regardless of the financial cost.

While our connections with Jilkminggan in the Northern Territory have continued, we have also opened up another opportunity for expanding our horizons through a ten-day trip to East Timor, to connect with a community there. The initiative for this Emanuel program came from five of our current students and alumni who have travelled to East Timor with the United Nations Youth organisation in recent years. We look forward to a successful inaugural experience for the group, who will take up this opportunity in August of this year.

As you will read below, our *Gesher* Committee has this year continued to hold events to engage members of our community, including current and past parents, ex-students, grandparents and friends.

Our P & F Committee is organising a Golf Day on 29 October at Bonnie Doon – keep an eye out for the advertising for this event and plan to join with other golfers for what is sure to be a very enjoyable day. The P & F is raising funds to assist the School with realizing our goal of making our playground more interesting and effective as a play space.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Grandparents Day on 11 September.

Best wishes

Anne Hastings, Principal



Connecting the Emanuel School Community

We hope you are becoming familiar with the word "Gesher" – Hebrew for "bridge". Our *Gesher* community activities go from strength to strength!

Our inaugural and very successful "Jazz on the Hill" was held here on the School campus in mid-March, attended by over 180 parents and friends. We hope some of you will join us at this event next year. We continue our bi-annual CBD Networking Breakfasts as well as our Emanuel Striders team in The Mother's Day Classic. It was wonderful to see some of our grandparents walking/running this event on 10 May and we hope some of you will join our team, "Emanuel School Striders" for City2Surf on 9 August www.city2surf.com.au (our password is 'MindSpiritBeing'). It is so good to see your involvement in all our community events and we look forward to welcoming you at future events. We are excited to be able to showcase our new building to you during our annual Primary Grandparents and Friends Day on 11 September if not before. Thank you for your contributions to the life of our amazing School and Community!

Daniel Knoll,

Board member and Chair, Gesher Committee



Connecting the Emanuel School Community



Join the Emanuel School Striders
at this year's City2Surf.

Last year we had over 60 participants.

Let's smash that record in 2015

Visit www.city2surf.com.au
and join the 'Emanuel School Striders' team.
Our password is 'MindSpiritBeing'.

Questions? Email mfavero@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au



Message from the Parents & Friends

We have certainly had a busy and very productive first half of the year. We had a huge turn-out of parents and students at our Uniform Shop sale mid-January in the Aron Kleinlehrer Performing Arts Centre (The PAC). As you may already know, the P&F has been providing the service of selling second hand uniforms to our families for a long time. However, it was decided that the School needed to change with the times and bring in a supplier to run a new uniform shop on campus. From the start of Term 3, Midford will take on this role and they will sell both new and pre-loved uniforms. We thank Sara Landa Wrublewski and her team of volunteers for running the second hand uniform shop, which finally closed on 12 June.

As we do at the start of every school year, we provided lunch for all the School Staff on their Development Day, the day before the students came back to School at the end of January, and then we hosted "Cookies and Kisses" to help welcome the parents and grandparents of our new Year K students. *Purim* was not far behind, and we held another very successful *Purim* Disco for our Year K to 6 students. It was an afternoon of games, music and fun enjoyed by all who attended, decked out in their fancy costumes. A huge thank you goes to Goal Soccer Academy & alumn, Tami Martin from Kool Kidzz, who provided some great entertainment for the kids of all ages.

Our annual Mothers' Day breakfast and stall were a huge success and we thank the dads and grandfathers who helped prepare breakfast under the guidance of Liane Fletcher, our Mothers Day Breakfast co-ordinator. A big thank you as usual, goes to GUSTO for providing the coffee and NUDIE for all the generous juices.

Pesach is such a wonderful time of the year and the community really comes together to make sure each and every school seder is special for the students and families alike. In order to make each seder unique, we had the support of several of our wonderful volunteers to help prepare tables, serve pots and pots of *Matzo Ball* soup and assist with the cleanup and other tasks.

A huge thank you must go to parent, Michael Nebenzahl, through his theatre connections, for making it possible for us to get a block booking for "Matilda, the musical". If you have booked your tickets with us, you will be part of an amazingly large group of 360 people from our Emanuel School community sharing this experience together on 2 August!

Much is planned for the year ahead, with our major fundraiser for the year being the amazing Emanuel P&F Golf Classic at Bonnie Doon Golf Club on 29 October. Preparations are well underway for an action-packed morning followed by lunch with lots of fun promised – we would love you to join us. This event will help raise funds for landscaping and playground equipment for the School and our children. Please mark the date in your diary and if you are interested in helping to sponsor this event, please contact us at golfday@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

We thank you for your continued support of the P&F and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many events.

**Susie Rosen & Sharon Schulz,
P&F Co-Presidents**



EMANUEL SCHOOL P+F

golf classic

SAVE THE DAY

**EMANUEL SCHOOL'S
GOLF DAY 2015**

To be held at Bonnie Doon Golf Course on
Thursday 29 October 2015

Begin organising your four-ball aggregate stableford team

Email Gabriel Pallo or Sonia Newell:
golfday@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au
for further information and to
sponsor a hole or the event!

Thursday 29 October 2015
Bonnie Doon Golf Club, Pagewood



Message from Kornmehl Centre Emanuel Pre-school



The role and bond of a grandparent and a grandchild are something very special. Grandparents serve as role models, teachers, nurturers, providers and mentors. It is physically, spiritually, and emotionally healthy for children to have a close relationship with their grandparents.

Grand parenting is an opportunity to play, to love someone new, to appreciate the magic of a developing mind, to be needed by someone again and to provide continuity in a child's life. Grandparents can add a rich sense of family tradition to a child's life. Here at Kornmehl this is truly evident in the wonderful encounters and interactions we consistently have with the grandparents who come into the Pre-school on a daily basis. The adoration and unconditional love we see existing between grandparents and their grandchildren are simply priceless. These encounters brighten all our days and make our connections with families all the more richer and meaningful.

We celebrated Grandparents' Day on 17 and 18 June, with a concert and delicious morning tea. The children delighted their appreciative audience with their cute songs and dances, and then enjoyed some craft activities together. The feedback received from grandparents was positive and the smiles on their faces during this time together were evident of a very special and beautiful time shared together.

Terry Aizen, Director



From the Jewish Studies Department

On Thursday 18 June, parents and grandparents of the Year 4 students were invited to attend a special Primary School *Torah* Service and *Tanakh* presentation ceremony. Each child's *Tanakh* had been lovingly decorated and personalised with family histories, stories, photographs and blessings in preparation for the ceremony. To symbolise the passing on of the *Torah* from generation to generation, three generations of the Klein and Riesel families participated in the *Torah* service, and Ashley Goldman, his father and grandfathers were called to the *Torah*. Before giving their child the *Tanakh*, parents were led in the *birkat banim* – the blessing over the children.

After receiving their *Tanakh*, students recited the *Shechyanu* prayer. This beautiful ceremony was followed by hugs, kisses and the singing of '*Siman tov u' mazal tov*'. The pride and delight expressed by the children and their families over the giving of the *Tanakh* were something very special to witness. Families shared a quiet moment at the end of the ceremony to read over and share the personalised messages and decorations with their child. Thank you to all the parents and family members who were able to attend the ceremony, and for the love and care put into personalising each *Tanakh*.

Photos by Ofer Levy



Interview with Rabbi Daniel Siegal

Some of you have already met Rabbi Daniel Siegal, our new Head of Jewish Life. Here is an interview that was published recently in the *Australian Jewish News*.

What attracted you to the position?

Emanuel School's approach to educating speaks authentically to the Jewish way of learning and living. Committed to teaching the whole child, and pursuing the path of positive psychology, our families, students and staff are dedicated partners in realising the unique possibilities of personal growth for each individual. This is what drew me to this special community. It is the possibility of a community of noble aspirations, promoting personal and communal growth, through intellectual rigor and moral integrity, while caring deeply for the emotional wellbeing of each individual that attracts me to Emanuel.

What do you believe are some of the challenges facing Sydney Jewish day schools in promoting Jewish education?

I do not think Sydney is essentially different from most developed cities of diverse cultures and ever-increasing opportunities. We are challenged to foster a Jewish identity that is at once particular in its expression yet universal in its sensibility. We wish to secure an enriching Jewish identity, knowing we will only succeed if we openly encounter the wider world of which we are a part. Reactive responses, lauding a tradition that speaks from the past rather than in the present, work against fostering identifiably Jewish and engaged children and young adults. A formidable challenge for us as educators is to draw upon a rich source of Jewish knowledge together with a deep understanding of what makes for meaningful living for our students. Jewish education must promote us if it is to be promoted by us.

What are the key tenets of a well-rounded Jewish education?

To be truly Jewish is to be well-rounded. I do not differentiate between "secular" and Jewish education. All education can and should be Jewish education. What is learned in the science laboratory and on the soccer field should positively inform the Jewish being of each of our students. Living Jewishly is living wholly. It has long been debated in our Jewish tradition whether action or study is primary. At the same time, it is recognised that neither can be divorced from each other. Learning may give birth to living, but living gives truth to learning. Our tradition teaches "*bekhol derakhecha daeihu*" - "In all your pathways come to know the Divine". This is the key tenet – all of our life experiences are opportunities to live and grow Jewishly.

Some have expressed concern over the potential problem of young people becoming 'Jewed out' – the idea that after an extensive Jewish education, some young people decided they want nothing more to do with Judaism. What's your take on the situation?

We are entrusted to educate for life-long Jewish learning and living. Deeply informing education requires inspired and inspiring individuals whose impassioned living empowers others to explore their Jewish lives as an unfolding journey. Being "Jewed out" is never having been "Jewed in", lacking the resource of an internal fire that can only be generated by an engagement from within and never kindled from an imposition from without.

Our tradition teaches, "*hanokh la-na'ar al-pi darko*" – "educate each young person in accordance with their personal path". "Gam



ki yazkin lo yasur mimenah" – "if you successfully do so, they will never abandon that road of life-long Jewish learning and living", for it is truly theirs. As Jewish educators, we are called upon to honour the unique voice of each of our students so that the Jewish journey to which we are blessed to introduce them is an enduring and celebratory expression of, rather than a deadly alienation from their authentic selves.

How do you hope to foster a sense of community in Jewish Life that is so integral to Emanuel School's ethos?

To build community within we must seek to build community without. While Abraham was the first Jew, our Bible begins with the story of Adam, the first human. Then, as now, our Jewish community best grows within by extending ourselves to encounter the larger world of which we are a part. We further our responsibility within our Emanuel community when we work together in advancing the lives of those less privileged beyond our school walls. As our students consider each other's personal welfare, with our older students looking after our younger ones, or students sustaining each other through a *ruach*-filled *Shabbat* gathering, I hope we may further move our children to extend their hearts to the larger community through the practice of *gemilut hasadim* or loving kindness, giving of ourselves.

How much of an impact do you think interfaith and outreach school activities have on Jewish day school students?

In a school honouring pluralistic practice and diverse perspectives, engagement with other faith communities deepens our own religious sensibilities and enriches our appreciation of difference. Through outreach, we may free ourselves and help free others of misconceptions regarding the "other". While *kedushah* or "holiness" has often been seen as necessitating setting oneself apart, lest there be undue influence on one's religious practices and beliefs, my experience is that for Jewish day school students interfaith activities often generate greater appreciation of and pride in one's own religion and values. .

There is a trend to send children to public schools for Primary and then to Jewish day schools for High School. Given the current economic climate, why do you feel it is important for parents to send their children to Jewish day schools from the start of their formal education?

There is a saying within our rabbinic tradition: "*A/ tikra banayikh ela bonayikh*" - "Do not (only) call them your children but call them your builders (as well)". Being immersed in Jewish learning and living at a young age establishes a dynamic foundation for an enduring



Interview with Rabbi Daniel Siegal continued

Judaism. Our children are empowered to flourish more fully in their Judaism with the early nurturing provided at the primary level.

How do you feel that the landscape of Jewish education differs from your experiences in America and Canada?

Students are thirsty for a meaningful encounter with Judaism, whether here in Sydney or in North America. "Why be Jewish?" is the challenge voiced by a large segment of Jewish day school students.

A Judaism that is "real", in that it speaks to students' concerns, will make for an enduring Jewish education. While some schools place greater emphasis on the historical, cultural and social aspects of living Jewishly, others are more tied to text study, ritual observances and practices. Incorporating these diverse elements within a school most successfully creates an enriching Jewish experience that speaks to the range of students as well as the range within each student. Most importantly the Judaism we teach within our walls can only be meaningful if it is a Judaism our students will want to live outside its walls.

The school's motto is Mind Spirit Being. How does the Jewish Life of the School support and integrate into this?

Judaism seeks to empower us to live an integrated rather than a fragmented life. As reflected in our motto, we challenge our students to think critically about their Judaism and to be mindful of their actions, informing themselves and imbuing others with a spirit of sanctity in their relationships and aspiring to inspired living for themselves and our school community.

Mind, Spirit and Being is advanced at Emanuel by our giving living expression to the Rabbinic teaching, "Upon three things does the world stand – Upon Torah (study), Avodah (divine service) and gemilut hasadim (loving kindness)". We deem our Torah, study and reflection, essential, deepening our thinking. Yet, we recognise that we must infuse our Torah with a spirit of Avodah (divine service), creating a living Judaism that speaks to right actions no less than rite practices. When beyond that we move to acts of gemilut hasadim (loving kindness), we have entered the stage of Being, wherein we ourselves have become Torah.

At Emanuel we strive, in partnership, to foster a Judaism that constitutes our very being, in which the command to live Jewishly comes from within rather than without.

From a Grandparent's point of view

Following the publication of the last newsletter in December, we received this email from a grandparent, Michael Rabin:

As a biographer, I am used to putting pen to paper and, having just read the Emanuel Grandparents and Friends newsletter, I felt the urge to write a few words.

Maybe it was because I had the pleasure this afternoon of a visit from my granddaughter. As an octogenarian, every moment I have with her is of enormous pleasure.

Here we go again!

I have had a long connection with Emanuel School for I am lucky to have three grandchildren who have been, or still are, students.

I came from a rainy and rather gloomy London in 1975 to a very hot Sydney. It was also the week that Gough Whitlam was sacked by the Governor General. You can imagine the turmoil of that period.....

I rented a unit literally overlooking Bondi Beach rocks, on the north side of the beach. Our first breakfast was on the roof – we lived at the top of the small block and each day before breakfast, during our five-month stay, we ran along the beach. The family were in seventh heaven, particularly my three children.

Not knowing the Jewish schools in Sydney, I had contacted the London Jewish Board of Deputies, asking for their recommendation. They gave me details of another school, not Emanuel, and so I registered my children, 6-12 years of age, and they received their education until graduating.

As children do, they grew up, and my eldest son remained this side of the Harbour Bridge. As a result, in 2003, his two sons were enrolled at Emanuel Primary School. I recall as though it was yesterday,

entering the school with my wife to collect them each day; standing outside the demountable classrooms in all weathers; classrooms recently demolished to make way for the new development now being built.

Later, as the boys grew older and continued into High School, we waited outside the main gates to collect and bring them home. There were excursions, sports days, school events and, finally, prize days. Suddenly, their time was up and they both left to go to university. The two boys graduated from Emanuel in the class of 2009 and 2011 respectively.

Meanwhile, my fifth grandchild, and second granddaughter was born and guess where she was destined to be educated? Here we go again, we said to ourselves. This time, she started at Kindergarten and then on to Primary School where she still is. Once more, we occasionally collect her after school hours.

Why I am travelling down memory lane and telling you this?

I have been connected with schools both small and large for many years, in England and here. Let me tell you, nothing seems to be as effective as Emanuel School in recognising and creating students with a rounded education and yet, at the same time, recognising and nurturing them as individuals. No grandchild of mine, as Shakespeare put it, ever 'walked unwillingly to (Emanuel) school'. The words of Rupert Brooke come to mind: *Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day; and laughter learnt of friends; and gentleness.*

I hope I have a few more years to walk up the hill, turn into the front gates and hang around for my granddaughter. Can't wait!

There are many opportunities to be involved. If you have a little time to spare and would like to help at School, please contact Sonia Newell on 8383 7350



Schmooze with a Grandparent...

Susan Sweller and Ros Shammay

Susan Sweller and Ros Shammay are grandmothers to current Year K student Isaac Shammay, aged 5 and his brother Nathan, aged 3 who just started at Kornmehl. Here are their stories and how they enjoy helping here at Emanuel School.....

Susan Sweller: My affiliation with Emanuel School is through my two grandsons Isaac and Nathan. We are delighted to have our grandsons at Emanuel. We appreciate the care and attention given to individual children, who are provided with every opportunity to learn. I am grateful for the opportunities given to grandparents to assist and the welcome afforded to us. To grow with our grandchildren, experience some of their school life, and become part of that life, is a real joy.

I am a retired Secondary School Science teacher. Besides high school teaching, I taught the method of teaching Biology to Science Education students in their Teacher Training years at the University of NSW, and more recently, I have taught a variety of Biology courses, including to international students, at the University of NSW. In addition, currently I am an education volunteer providing information to visitors at the Australian Museum.

When Isaac was at Kornmehl, I was fortunate to attend the Bush School activities with my daughter's *mechutanista* (mother-in-law), Ros, and I had occasions in class time to interest and enthuse the children with various biological topics, assisted by specimens I borrowed from the Australian Museum. I hope to continue this activity over the coming years.

Another love of mine is photography, a hobby for the past 55 years. Thus my life revolves around children, teaching, learning and visually recording.

My first association with Emanuel School was in 2005, when I accompanied my cousin, Mrs Ann Kirby (née Plotke), for a ceremony to unveil a plaque in her honour at the Kindergarten Playground. Ann is a strong supporter of Emanuel School and Emanuel Synagogue. She was Chair of the Emanuel School Foundation from 1996 –2002, and her name is included on the Founders' Board.

My Australian life began at the age of nine in 1957, when I arrived in Sydney from Hungary with my family, settling in the western suburbs. I went to Doonside Primary School and Blacktown Girls' High School.

It was not until I was in my 20s that I discovered I was Jewish! How did I find out, you ask? I need to begin this answer by stating that on our arrival to Australia, my mother determined that we assimilate immediately and totally. I was even sent to the local Anglican church and fellowship. It is also relevant to state that my father died two years after our arrival.

When I eventually moved out of home in my early twenties, I wanted to get to know people around my new home in Strathfield. My stepfather (not Jewish but knew about our background) suggested that I try the local synagogue. This idea was quite foreign to me. Before I went, my mother made me aware that her maternal great-grandfather had been a Rabbi. Although this meant nothing to me, when I arrived at Strathfield Synagogue, I included this in answer to questions about who I was. Coincidentally there was a *bar mitzvah* at the synagogue and I happened to sit beside the wife of the treasurer of the Great Synagogue to which she invited me.....



L to R: John Sweller (Poppa), Isaac Shammay (in front), Susan Sweller (Nanna) holding Nathan Shammay, Ros Shammay (Grandma), Raffy Shammay (Grandpa).

I completed my undergraduate degree at Sydney University, and in 1971, I began my teaching career at Penrith High School (then considered a country school). After four-and-a-half years there, I was seconded to the School of Education at UNSW, where I met John Sweller, an Educational Psychologist. He had arrived with his family from Poland to settle in Adelaide in 1948, when he was two years old. During my almost three years at UNSW, I began a research degree in Biological Sciences. Upon leaving the university, I taught at Eastern Suburbs state schools until Naomi was born. I then resigned from the Department of Education. After almost eight years at home looking after our two children, I returned to high school teaching, but in the private system. In 1989 I took a part-time science teaching position at Yeshiva Girls' High School (now known as Kesser Torah College). I left there at the end of 1996 to return to research and teaching at UNSW. For some years I continued to do private tutoring of HSC Biology and Chemistry. I finally retired at the end of 2006.

Naomi is our older daughter. She is an academic in the School of Psychology at Macquarie University. Naomi has a younger sister, Tamara, who is a forensic psychologist. Tamara is married to Eden Hatzvi (an economist at the Reserve Bank) who had been a friend of Ari Shammay's from long before our girls met the boys. That is another interesting story! Isaac and Nathan are our only grandchildren.

Ros Shammay: I am the first in my family to be born in Australia with most of my family being born in different countries. My mother was born in Austria, my father, a Holocaust survivor, in Poland, my brother, Belgium, my cousin, France and my husband, Israel. I like to think that Australia is the best. My parents met in Belgium after the war in 1948 and were introduced by a friend. Mum was divorced and had a nine year old son at the time, my half-brother, Leo. Mum and Leo came to Australia first in late 1949 to see if they could make a living here. Leo was placed in the Isabella Lazarus home for Jewish children (now Montefiore Home at Hunters Hill) while Mum found work and somewhere to live. Leo made lifelong friends there, Paul Drexler, whose two daughters went to Emanuel and Anthony Lowy, whose niece and nephew also went to Emanuel – both Anthony's niece and one of Paul's daughters were in Josh, my oldest son's class. It's a small world. Mum decided Sydney was a good place to settle so my Dad followed in July 1950. I was born in August 1951. Shortly after I was born, my parents bought a fruit shop at the bus terminus in Bondi. Someone would ask for potatoes and dad would give them apples. After many corrections and patience from customers, Mum and Dad soon learnt English.



Schmooze with a Grandparent continued

I went to Bondi Beach Public School for my primary years and then to Dover Heights Girls High School, leaving in fourth year (Year 10). After that I did a secretarial course at Seaforth TAFE as my parents thought a move to the North Shore was a good idea. All their friends were in the Eastern Suburbs so we didn't live in Seaforth for very long!

After finishing my secretarial course, I worked for a solicitor for a number of years, breaking it up with a two year working holiday in England and Israel in 1970-71, leaving two months before my 19th birthday. When I returned to Sydney I went back to work with the same solicitor.

I then worked at Shalom College as a secretary for seven years, leaving there two weeks before our first son, Josh, was born.

I met Raffy (my husband) when I was working at Shalom College – he was the part-time accountant there. Raffy asked me to marry him a month after we started going out but I said it was too soon. I waited another whole month before I said yes, and we married in 1980, as soon as his divorce became final. We are still friends with Raffy's ex-wife and she sometimes comes to the movies with us and I go for walks and lunches occasionally with her.

When Raffy's Mum moved to Monte, Raffy's ex mother-in-law was living there too and sometimes we would have Friday night dinners at Monte with many members of the extended family. Raffy's ex-sister and brother-in-law are Ari's Godparents and we are Godparents to their middle son – one big happy family!

I am now retired, after working with my husband, in our accounting firm where I was an assistant accountant/administrator. I told Raffy if we had three fights working together I would leave as my marriage was more important! We lasted 20 odd years working together with no fights although maybe some minor disagreements. Working in our own firm gave me the opportunity to be with our boys when needed and to also stay at home for the first six months of each of their lives. We both retired in 2006.

Our younger son, Ari who is married to Naomi, Susan's daughter, graduated from Emanuel School in 2002 and is now a Chemical/Process Engineer at MWH. He has come back to the School on several occasions to talk to some of the senior students and even take a Year 12 Chemistry class! Our older son, Josh, graduated

in 2000, also from Emanuel, and obtained a Computer Science degree. He is now a co-founder and web designer in an interior design start-up company called *Decorilla*. Sadly for us, Josh moved to London in May for an indefinite time. He can work anywhere in the world as long as he has internet and coffee. He lived in London for a couple of years from 2009 and has made a lot of friends there and finds the lifestyle more enjoyable with more activities. He has travelled extensively and loved it, which is another reason to base himself in London, closer to new travel experiences.

Josh blames us for his travel bug as we took both boys on Australian and overseas holidays.

At the end of University for his Honours in 2005, he helped program small robot dogs to play soccer. UNSW came first in the Australian RoboCup competition. Josh then went to Japan with the UNSW team to compete in the RoboCup world finals where robot teams from different countries competed against each other in soccer. UNSW came third out of 24 teams.

Whilst my grandson Isaac was at Kornmehl during 2013-2014, Susan and I helped out at Bush School at Centennial Park, which was just as much fun for me as for the children. All those years ago when Ari and Josh were students at Emanuel School, I helped in the school canteen once a month.

I have been a volunteer at Montefiore Home since 2008. I love volunteering there, as it gives you a sense of giving back to the community and a really good feeling in yourself being able to help. I now do a variety of volunteer jobs there – administration every Monday, transport on Wednesday afternoons and the cafe once a month. In my spare time I love to read and a group of us go to the movies and dinner every Tuesday night.

I also love to travel with my husband and friends. Both sets of grandparents have travelled together to a variety of places including Vietnam, Northern Territory and we are about to do a trip to Yellowstone National Park together.

I love the family atmosphere of Emanuel School and the fact that grandparents are involved in a number of things, including getting their own newsletter! Our children seemed very happy at the School and both had a great education. Now it is our grandsons' turn!

Stay in touch with the Emanuel School Grandparents & Friends Club

Do you want to add or update your details on our Grandparents and Friends mailing list?
Please send an email to Sonia Newell at snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

We thank our Grandparents and Friends for their time and support in helping make Emanuel School such a special place and we look forward to your continuing assistance.

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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