



EMANUEL SCHOOL

Alumni

NEWS

December 2018

Tevet 5779

Vol 10 Issue 2



From the Development Office

I hope this latest newsletter finds you and your family well.

Pages 12-13 feature just a few of our alumni

and their journeys post-school. We would love to hear what you have been doing since leaving school, so please get in touch. If you haven't been back to the School for a while and would like a tour around the campus and/or you have news to share, please let me know: snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu

Also keep us updated if you have moved and/or changed your email.

If you did not receive the last newsletter from June 2018, you can see it, and all past alumni newsletters at: www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/Gesher

We welcome our youngest group of alumni – the Class of 2018. This group of 81 students is the largest graduating Year 12 group in the 35 years of Emanuel School's existence. We hope you and your peers, along with our other graduates will maintain a long connection with us through the many avenues available. This includes homework club, debating, sports coaching, music tutoring, helping to organize your year group reunion, careers events and many more, or just pop in to say "hello" and let us know what you are doing.

We celebrated a milestone within this latest group of graduates – Benjamin Dobrin is the first child of an Emanuel graduate who has completed his or her schooling here from Year K to Year 12. Benjamin's father, **Greg Dobrin** finished Year 12 here in 1990. Lauren Faul who is also a member of the Class of 2018 started here in Year 7, and her mother, **Danni Jenner** was a classmate of **Greg Dobrin**.



Greg & Benjamin Dobrin



Lauren & Danni Faul



Year 11

Back Row L to R: Natan Nadas, Bryan Narunsky, Paul Golan, Michael Kitchener, Kiril Ruvinsky,
Second Back Kolya Miller, Ari Marks, Micki Persky, Ella Nothman, Julie Masnick, Phillip Hakim, Christian Charnas, Joel Haski,
Second Row Natalie Harrison (Tutor) Simon Masnick, David Goh, Ben Fox, Greg Dobrin, Justin Doobov, Chris Lee, Irene Savvides (Tutor)
Front Row Noya Lizer, Carolyn Gray, Jessica Bures, Danni Jenner, Mikayla Garfield, Natalie Arnold, Nadine Weinberger, Absent: Melissa Solomon, Nikki Lederer, Ben Feller

Inside this Issue...

From the Development Office	1
Jeremy Spinak.....	3
From the Principal's Desk	5

Gesher Community Connections	6
Remember September 2018	7
Visitors to Emanuel.....	7
Reunions	8
Upcoming events	9

Staying in Touch	10
Our Youngest Alumni	11
Alumni Social Media	11
Where are they Now?	12
1983 School Photo.....	14



Emanuel School is a member of the JCA family of Organisations



EMANUEL SCHOOL

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels

From the Development Office continued

JNF Australia/B'nai B'rith Jewish Changemaker Awards 2018

Many of our alumni as well as current students actively volunteer in our Jewish and/or wider community. This volunteering is recognised each year by the Changemaker Awards, as they become a platform for the discovery of outstanding talent within our community and recognition of our emerging leaders. This year's awards night was held at the end of June and it was great to see nominations of some of our alumni (Young Adults: ages 18 to 35) as well as some of our current students (Youth: ages 14 to 18).

Emanuel graduate **Matt Friedman** ('15) won the Young Adult category "Contribution to Australian Society" for his work as founder of 2Birds1Bee, a company that promotes respectful relationships and sex education, through educational workshops for both primary and high school students, as well as parents and service providers. Matt is also a trained facilitator with Love Bites, a nationally accredited Respectful Relationships program aimed at Year 10 students and has assisted the JewishCare team with facilitating this program in many of the Jewish and other local high schools in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs over the past 12 months. Matt has also volunteered with UN Youth Australia in numerous roles.

We congratulate Matt on his award and also the other Emanuel alumni for their nominations for helping make this a better world – **Daniel Samowitz** ('04), **Mitch Burnie** ('11), **Eve Altman** ('14), **Julia Sussman** ('14), **Julia Meltzer** ('15) and **Jonathan Moallem** ('15).

Coby New, a Year 7 Emanuel student was co-winner of the Youth Contribution to Australian Society for his efforts collecting second hand soccer boots and sports gear, representing the charity group "Kit Bags for Kids" that collects and distributes the boots and sporting gear to remote indigenous communities and Asylum Seekers. Mazal Tov to Coby on his award, and also to **Sean Torban** ('18), for his nomination for the same award. Sean has been volunteering and working at Headspace since May last year, and he has supported and volunteered at multiple community events whilst preparing to sit the HSC this year.

We would love to have the opportunity to nominate more alumni for next year's Changemaker Awards, so if you are aged between 18 and 35, and volunteer in any capacity, please let me know.

It is never easy to bring sad news and this time, it is particularly devastating – this announcement came from the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies on 15 November:

"It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our Immediate Past President, **Jeremy Spinak**, aged 36, from cancer.



We express our deepest condolences to Jeremy's wife Rhiannon, his baby twins, parents, siblings and the extended Spinak family. Jeremy joined the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies in his mid-20s and made a significant impact on all areas of our work, in particular being the driving force behind an increased focus on intercultural relationships and many of our interfaith programs. He was a much-loved and greatly respected leader of the community. His contribution to enhanced political bipartisanship, a nuanced approach to advocacy and engagement with all sectors within the Jewish community were features of his presidency. His influence on our approach to representing the community, coalition-building, legislative reform, child protection and supporting marriage equality were among the numerous achievements which will be his lasting legacy both to our organisation and the entire community. He helped make the community safer. He possessed a sharp intellect and keen sense of humour, but most importantly, he was a mensch, devoting countless hours to the Board of Deputies despite a demanding career and his responsibilities as a young husband and father. Jeremy's light shone brightly, but not long enough. He will be deeply missed by all Board of Deputies staff, executive members and deputies and the entire community.

May his memory be a blessing. On behalf of the entire community, we wish his family Long Life".

Recording our history and seeking donations of School memorabilia

Our part-time archivist Enid O'Connor is busy cataloguing photographs and other items that are an integral part of our 35 year history. Please email me if you have some old School-related items you wish to donate: snewell@emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

Careers Space 2019:



If you would like to be part of next year's careers event on 21 May 2019, where our senior students have the opportunity to hear about life after school and career choices, conventional or not, please let me know. It is not just about the destination when it comes to careers – the journey is also important. Many school leavers are bamboozled by the choices of courses and universities and/or trades/businesses available upon leaving school. This forum is a fabulous opportunity to share your own experiences and journeys with our students, so please get in touch if this event is of interest to you.

Sonia Newell, Development Officer

Jeremy Spinak

25 May 1982 – 15 November 2018

Jeremy ('00), has always been a close friend of our School and was a Patron of our Capital Appeal in 2013. He will be sorely missed. We at Emanuel School wish his wife Rhiannon and young children, Grace and Michael, his parents Margaret and Richard, his siblings **Jason** ('91) and **Jenny** ('93), along with their extended family, strength during this very difficult time.

Jeremy sacrificed a huge amount of his time and career to deliver lasting outcomes for our community in a purely voluntary capacity, giving literally years of his time. Jeremy's passing is a huge loss to our community but a much bigger loss to his young family. Not only have the family lost their devoted husband and father, but they have incurred enormous medical bills and lost their primary source of income.

The Jeremy Spinak Family Fund (JSFF) has been created by some of his closest friends and will be administered by Jewish Care to help support Jeremy's family. They have setup a website www.bit.ly/spinakfund which will enable members of the community to contribute to the fund. If you are able to, we would encourage you to do something to support this in recognition of Jeremy's service to our community and to help a young family in tragic circumstances. No contribution is too small.

Jeremy was Guest Speaker at our High School Speech Night, December 2011 and here now is his speech, which gives amazing insight into his life and his goals at that stage of his life aged 29:

"It is a real pleasure to be here today, thank you so much for inviting me. I know very often at speech nights you hear from accomplished professionals who have "made it"... and their advice is very important. However, by that point some have forgotten the exciting, challenging and nerve-racking period of their teenage years and early 20s. The very period you students are about to enter.

I, on the other hand, have just gone through that period, so I am hoping to give you some advice that I would like to have heard when I was sitting in your position as an Emanuel student 10-15 years ago. So, although I'm not an "elder statesman", I do hope you will take on board what I'm about to say.

I attended Emanuel School between 1994 and 2000. My family has a long tradition here, as my sister was enrolled on the very first day the school opened. My brother soon joined her and from 1983 to 2000 there was at least one Spinak at Emanuel School. In more recent years, my younger cousins also enrolled at Emanuel and continued our family legacy.

After graduating in 2000 I completed a double degree in economics and international relations, studied international relations at Georgetown University in Washington D.C, worked on U.S. Senator John Kerry's presidential campaign in 2004, was a legislative aide to the U.S Senate Minority Leader and, on my return to Australia, worked as a political advisor to former treasurer Michael Costa for four years. In the last few years I moved to the private sector and today I am managing director of my own property advisory business. I am also a vice president of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and a director of the Sydney Alliance, a grouping of religious and community organisations.

As I tell you what I have done since leaving high school, I think back to one speech day when I was your age – about Year 8. That year, we



had another former Emanuel student address us. I think his speech was called something like The Keys to Success. Every time he referred to his success he only named work-related achievements. We got a lecture on his HSC results, his uni results, his latest promotion. I left that evening thinking that to feel successful I had to get a high paying job and be able to afford very cool things.

However, what I have come to learn is that to feel "successful" you have to do more than what that former student had done. I believe that you can't feel successful unless you create a well-balanced life. It is all very well and good to slave away for a material goal – for money, for a title, for recognition – but if you do not bring your life along with you, you have not succeeded at all.

The best way to illustrate this is from a personal story. When I was at Emanuel I was obsessed with American politics. I was actually late to my 2 unit History HSC exam because it was on the same day as the 2000 U.S. presidential election.

Throughout high school all I wanted to do was work on Capitol Hill. I knew that the only way I could get there was to first get into the prestigious Georgetown University and then use that visa to apply for a job on Capitol Hill.

To get into Georgetown I worked my guts out. I stopped going out, I stopped hanging out with my friends, I became totally obsessed with my university marks. When I got to Georgetown, instead of the usual partying and socialising, I stalked Capitol Hill looking for an opening in a Senator's office. Finally, I was accepted into the office of the leader of the Democratic Party, at the time the most powerful Democrat in America.

One day, I was sitting in the Senator's Capitol Hill office and I realised something. I was lonely, I was homesick. I had not had any fun in a very long time. I had ignored my friends, I had left a person I loved, I had given my family hell, and even though I had achieved my goal it had not brought happiness or a sense of success.

In essence, I had achieved but I had not succeeded! At that point I realised that if you do not bring your friends, your loved ones, people who are special to you, and a truly fulfilling life with you, then you are just achieving for the sake of it and it won't make you happy. I was at the very pinnacle of where I wanted to be but I felt very empty and alone.

So as you strive to achieve your goals, just remember to take everybody with you. Work on your relationships as hard as you work on your marks.

The second thing I have come to realise since leaving school is the importance of having interests. That is, having interests outside of work, grades and marks. The people I know who are the most dissatisfied with their lives are also the most boring and the reason that they are so boring is that they never pursued anything other

Jeremy Spinak continued

than good grades and good jobs. They never read anything that inspired them, they never joined a cause that they believed in, they never tried to play an instrument, read a new book, go to new places or indulged in a pleasure. When they come home from work they don't know what to do with themselves.

I'm not even just saying this in some fluffy, feel-good way, I also believe that pursuing wider interests and being well-rounded will actually help your professional life.

For example: my interest in American politics has provided me with almost every opportunity I have had in my professional life. My interest gave me nothing more than pure enjoyment until second year uni, when I met then Premier Bob Carr. I knew that he also had a great love of American politics and that he ran a very

exclusive society named the Chester A Arthur Society. All of a sudden, in the middle of our conversation Mr Carr started to quiz me about U.S presidential history. After I answered all his questions he invited me to the next meeting of his exclusive society. I gave his secretary my details and waited for 6 months, until one day I received an invitation in the mail. The event was to be held at the U.S Embassy in Canberra.

My parents dropped me at the embassy. I was surprised that the place wasn't teeming with people, in fact it was dead quiet. Not much of a party, I thought. I couldn't get in through the front door so I walked around the back where I saw that a door had been left ajar. Again, no one was around. I pushed the door open and walked down a long corridor that led into a large reception room and there sitting around a table, was the U.S ambassador to Australia Tom Schaffer, former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, former opposition leader and foreign minister Andrew Peacock, Bob Carr and his wife Helena. It seems I was nearly an hour early and had just gate-crashed a very private dinner. Luckily they were very nice and invited me to sit down.

Although I was super nervous, I began to realise that my years of study and interest had paid off. I was able to hold my own and I started to feel very confident. That night changed everything for me. Subsequently, Bob Carr wrote my reference to Georgetown. The ambassador also became a reference; I was able to secure my job with Michael Costa as a result of that evening and although I did not know it, two other of my future employers were there. When I went for job interviews later they remembered me from that night. Everything started for me from that moment and it all came about because I had pursued an interest for the purposes of sheer pleasure. So, you never know where your interests will take you, personally and professionally.

The third thing that I think will really give you a feeling of "success" is community work. The most fulfilling thing that I have done since I left high school is my volunteer work with the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.

I initially became involved because after attending one of their functions I saw that literally only two people were under the age of 40. The rest were old. The Jewish community has been so successful for so long because our people have been willing to put up their hands and contribute towards community life. Looking around that

room, it worried me that all of the volunteerism and energy that made us great was not transcending down the generations.

I really hope that you all think about how you can volunteer to make the Jewish community in Sydney even stronger and better than it already is. It's really easy to get involved and you will be continuing a great tradition.

I have found that pursuing a well balanced life through better relationships, new interests and community service also does something very important . . . it gives you a sense of perspective. I'm assuming you guys are very much like me, you go through periods where you doubt yourself and your self-confidence is very low. It happens to everyone. I found that when I was at school I

was pinning my confidence and self esteem on my test results and marks. If I got a B+ instead of an A my world would collapse. I would completely lose perspective. Today we sit around and laugh about how worked up we used to get about high school tests and I can promise you not one of us can remember our marks from that time.

My point isn't that you shouldn't study hard and try to do your best, you should, my point is that the world is not going to end if you have a setback. If you have strong relationships, outside interests and do community work, you are not basing your whole identity on your test results. It means you will have perspective.

It is hard to cultivate a well-balanced life and I certainly go through periods where work, money and grades come first and there is no time for relationships, interests or community work. But it is important to try and find room for those other three areas of life, I think they are the real keys to success.

Just a final note, you don't have to wait to enrich your life in such a way. I should have just paid more attention to the opportunities around me in high school. For instance, the peer support and community outreach programs, the plays, music, Jewish studies, meditation, sporting and volunteer opportunities. So do as much as you can, you have the opportunity to do it now.

You are very lucky that you are at a school that understands the difference between making a top student and a top person. Emanuel has always been and continues to be egalitarian, open, unpretentious. You can always tell who the Emanuel kids are in a room; they are the more accepting, and open to the outside world. They are less Insular and more humble. I couldn't have done the things I have done if I hadn't gone to Emanuel.

When I was writing this speech I was trying to think of a way of closing that could perfectly sum up what I am trying to say. Then I realised that the School had already done it for me a very long time ago. So my strong advice to all of you is to work hard on developing your mind, your spirit and being... because I have come to understand that they are the hallmarks of not only a successful career but a successful life.

(Published in Emanuel Alumni newsletter, Volume 4, Issue 1, July 2012)





From the Principal's Desk

Dear Emanuel School Alumni,

I write this report with both sad and wonderful news, as I approach the end of my 1st year here as Principal of such an amazing School.

It is with great sadness that I inform you that **Greg Churm**, beloved former AV Technician of the School for 18 years, passed away on 24 October after a long battle with Motor Neurone Disease. I am sure you will join me in wishing his wife Maria and family strength at this difficult time. Greg will be remembered in the School's Memorial Garden and through the newly named Greg Churm Year 11 Mensch of the Year Award. This will be presented at High School Speech Night to the student who embodies Greg's positivity and who goes above and beyond to help others.

May his dear soul rest in peace.

Staff Award Presentation

Our Term 4 Staff Development Day ended on a high note, with our third Emanuel School Staff Long Service Award Presentations, at which we recognized 26 loyal and long-serving staff members, almost 20% of the staff body. Collectively, they have been at Emanuel School for a combined total of 260 years! This is an impressive tally, considering our School's size and relatively young 35 years of operation.

The success of a School is not easily measured – but in terms of academic success, undergirded by a strong wellbeing program, stability in numbers, excellent, purpose built facilities, low debt level – and most importantly, happy and engaged students – Emanuel is right up there with the best of schools. Most principals are aware that the secret of success is having a strong staff team. It would be no exaggeration to say that our School's success is to a large measure, a result of the combined efforts and care of our professional staff team, who are always willing to go the extra mile for our students. John Hattie, in his meta-analysis of the key factors for academic achievement, found that it was not class sizes, learning spaces, demography or programs that had the most impact on our students' learning, but rather it was the work of teachers; their expectations, their care and their feedback, that made the difference.

Staff who remain for some time at Emanuel can develop strong and ongoing relationships with students – they are in a unique position to establish

trust and to 'know' their students well. We are blessed to have many such long-serving staff members. When a student leaves Emanuel, they will look back and remember those teachers who impacted their lives and encouraged them, rather than the buildings or the programs, or the principal! This was illustrated in a recent Alumni lunch in Tel Aviv, where many fond and funny memories of staff were shared. It was clear to me that their teachers were much loved and appreciated – and had a significant impact. Their memories are not of buildings or school history, but of their relationships.

The willingness of our staff to support each other and celebrate each other's achievements helps ensure the success of our Emanuel team. This event was an important milestone for many. The following staff were recognised this year for five years of service: Eliah Dean, Adam Ezekiel, Michelle Frank, Talia Hynek, Jackson Lee, Karen McAndrew, Jillian McCormick, Heath Morley, Maria Moses, Joseph Peacock, Kristy Reed and Norman Stein.

If you have visited reception in the past few years you will notice the Staff Appreciation Tree outside the Principal's office. Each staff member who has worked at Emanuel for 10, 15 or 20 years receives an engraved leaf which they attach to the tree. It is growing at a rapid rate and soon we'll have to 'plant' a new

one! Mazal tov to the following five staff members with 10 years of service, who received their bronze leaf: Maxine Chopard, Ruth Harvey, Miranda Minton, Martin Rembson and Rolene Silver.

Fifteen years is a long time to dedicate to a single employer and shows exceptional commitment and loyalty. The following staff collected their 15-year silver leaf to add to their growing collection; Julie Bowman, Lisa Dobrin, Neil Furman, Rebeca Goldberg, Louise Heilpern, Stuart Taylor and David Whitcombe.

Long-serving staff members, Lara Ephron, Esti Lipson and Elena Rosin received a 20-year award. This is an exceptionally long time to give of oneself. Each received a memento tree and a gold leaf and proudly helped to cut the cakes provided to celebrate this achievement.

Experiences in Israel

My wife, Cath and I have recently returned from a two-week trip to Israel, where we travelled across the country, experiencing firsthand the geography, culture, history, religion, politics, arts and cuisine. As mentioned, we had the opportunity to host an alumni lunch in Tel Aviv, with graduates from 2004, 2015 and 2017 attending. The alumni spoke fondly of their time at Emanuel. Throughout my time in Israel, I was struck by how similar and yet how vastly different Israel and Australia are. Similarities include our shared love of hiking and the outdoors, and of BBQs. Both countries enjoy our beaches, fishing and surfing, and we both have strips of fertile land, surrounded by desert. Water is therefore a precious commodity. Australia and Israel both enjoy good food and enjoy a big café and restaurant scene. We are both multicultural societies, seeking to



From the Principal's Desk continued

peacefully integrate different cultures, races and religions, with mixed success. Israel is seeking to integrate Jews, Muslims, Druze and Bedouins. We are both democracies, with opposition parties trailing the government by only a few votes. And finally, we both have some breathtakingly beautiful spots, historical and cultural landmarks that make us who we are; for example, Uluru and the Dead Sea.

As you would expect, when traveling thousands of kilometres from Australia, I was also struck by some marked differences between the 2 countries, including Israel's borders with hostile countries and their compulsory enlistment in the armed forces. Israel encourages Jews from the Diaspora to make Aliya, and thus needs to constantly build and expand. Claims to their religious sites within Jerusalem are disputed by Christians and Muslims. Israel is unique, in that it has Kibbutzim dotted across the countryside that have become self-sustaining and shared communities. Israel has also shouldered the legacy of the Holocaust, in which millions of lives were lost and countless lives were changed forever, whilst dealing with the remaining anti-Semitism. All of this has shaped Israel to what it is today. I enjoyed my visit to Israel and understand more fully why our Year 10 Chavayah experience is so special.

Andrew Watt, Principal



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



Connecting the Emanuel School Community

As 2018 comes to a close, we can reflect and feel confident that we have been able to connect with all facets of our School Community. I want to thank all the members of our Gesher Committee which is an amazing group of 14 committed staff and parents, alumni, grandparents and past parents who volunteer their time to meet every 6 to 8 weeks throughout the year to discuss and plan community-building events to showcase the School whilst giving everyone an opportunity to meet other like-minded members of our School community.

Sonia Newell, our Development Officer continues to produce informative bi-annual newsletters, not just this one where you can keep up-to-date with what's happening in our School Community and what some of our alumni are up to these days, but also one for our Grandparents and Friends where they have the opportunity to read more about what's happening at School with their grandchildren. If you are interested, you can also see the Grandparents and Friends newsletters online: www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au/Gesher



For our Gesher-sponsored Breakfast with Emanuel session on 26 September, a group of parents and grandparents were privileged to hear from Jewish Life teachers Kobi Bloom and alumnus **Daniel Samowitz** (better known to the students as Samo). Their amazing presentation had the audience captivated as they described how they inspire our High School students with a love of learning about Jewish Life and how the students take on the role of teaching other students. The challenge they said, is to find a way to relate to Judaism – they described what they called “authentic Judaism – meaningful life, love and a way of living” – a life that is not about tolerance but about acceptance, taught and showcased in a safe environment where students can make mistakes and learn from these mistakes.

Alumni reunions are also part of our Gesher program and it was wonderful to have the 20-year reunion for the Class of 1998 here at the School last month. A few of this year group are now current parents at the School, but for many of them, it was the first time they had been back at the School for 20 years. What an amazing change to the campus since then – they were suitably impressed with the many new buildings and facilities and some are now looking to enroll their own children here as part of the ever-growing second generation of Emanuel students.

I hope you all enjoy the long summer break and look forward to exciting times ahead in 2019. We look forward to your continued involvement and connection with Emanuel School for many more years to come.

Daniel Knoll, Board Member and Chair, Gesher Committee

Remember September 2018

Well done Ben Wilhelm ('08)

Ben with the support of his friends, most of whom are his peers from his school days here at Emanuel, started Remember September 4 years ago, to raise awareness and funds for pancreatic cancer research. Ben has organised this annual event, in memory of his late father Danny, who died from Pancreatic Cancer at the age of 63, as too did Ben's 33 year old cousin Danielle, sister of alumnus Ari Feller ('00). This year they raised \$50,000 with a total of more than \$175,000 raised over the past 4 years.

www.rememberseptember.gofundraise.com.au



*Once a friend, always a friend.
Ben & friends from the Class of 2008*



WANT TO SHARE OLD SCHOOL PHOTOS? Please contact Sonia to see about getting them in the next issue.

Look who came to School

- **Natalie Gainsley (Vasin)** '99, who currently lives in London was in Sydney last month to see family and she, along with 2 School friends, **Lisa Edinburg (Rudner)** and **Nicole Ungar (Ruttenberg)** came back to School for the 1st time since finishing Year 12, 19 years ago. They were all suitably impressed with the many new amazing facilities on campus. I invite you too, to come back and see your old School. If you are interested in a tour of the campus, please let me know.



Natalie Gainsley & friends



Tamar Hoffman



Benko Ure & former teachers



Toby Evans with Andrew Watt

to offer the audience a glimpse into a moment in the life of a person living with the debilitating condition. "I wanted to tell this story without losing its rawness while exposing the light-hearted moments that accompany any sadness". Leaving Home highlights the subject of Mental Health and OCD in a different way!. It is a black comedy that explores how simple things like walking out the door can become major obstacles for people with OCD. Benko and Writer, Robert Bruce and Director Julien Perrottet wanted to create a film that brings this issue to the surface in a digestible format. We wanted to create a visual representation of the mind and what people are going

through and tell a simple but effective story about how leaving home for some is not as easy as picking up your keys and walking out the door. Sometimes leaving home can be very hard to do!
www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_hmIRSF0cQ

- **Benko Ure** ('01) addressed High School assembly on 13 November which was, coincidentally, World Kindness Day, to talk about, and show the FIRST ever public screening of his short film "Leaving Home", about the effects of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) on its sufferers. Here is a short bio and link to this 7 minute film – Leaving Home. The story is based on a real-life experience. In an emotional performance, Story Creator, Producer and Actor Benko Ure delves into some truthful human moments in order

- **Tamar Hoffman** ('12) has been doing some casual teaching this term, for Drama and High School English, and it was great to catch up with her just before a Year 12 English Extension lesson.
- **Toby Evans** ('06) visited us a few months ago for the unveiling of the artwork he did to celebrate the opening of the new Innovation Centre.

School Reunions

Class of 1998

On Sunday 18 November, over 40 people including 25 members of the Class of 1998 and many of their teachers were here at School to celebrate their 20-year reunion. It was a wonderful afternoon full of reminiscing about their school days with lots of catching up, as the majority of these graduates had not seen each other or been back at School since they finished Year 12 20 years ago. 3 of these alum however, are current parents and a huge thank you goes to 2 of them – **Samantha Butt (nee Finger)** and **Eve Guerry** (Head Madricha, 1998) who were instrumental in getting this, their first-ever reunion organised. It was held in the courtyard outside the Innovation Centre, with entertainment provided by our amazing Intermediate Jazz Ensemble and their mentor George Nikolopoulos.

They were fantastic – had lots of positive feedback and we really appreciate their time. The students were also so lovely and a couple stayed back to pass around some food!! Very sweet kids and just demonstrates the beautiful nature of the school. Sam Butt

This group of Emanuel graduates includes **Lara Pitt**, TV presenter and sports journalist and **Andrei Dolnikov**, well-renowned Interior Architect and founder/CEO of “Binyan Studios 3D Visualization”, who were both part of our Year 11 and 12 Careers Space event in May this year, whilst **David Brook** who with his wife Hana, were instrumental in organising the amazing collaborative artwork that hangs in the LINC Building, was also at the reunion. Several alumni came from interstate (Brisbane and Melbourne) and one was here from London. A tour around the campus to showcase all the changes over the past 20 years brought gasps and comments about how fantastic the School has progressed since their own school days.

It was truly magical to be back with friends and teachers in a place that holds such fond memories for me.
Greg Segal (Head Madrich and Dux of 1998).



Class of 1998, Year 4



Class of 1998, Year 5

Class of 2013

5-year reunion, to be held on 16 December. Thank you to **Sam Wrublewski** (Head Madrich 2013) for his help in organising this event.

Class of 1989

The Class of 1989 is planning their 30-year reunion for January 2019 – this is very exciting to hear, as it is a mile-stone event for the School. This year group was the first group of Year 12.

School reunions:

Seeking one or 2 representatives from the following year groups to help with your respective reunions next year:

- Class of 2014 – 5 years
- Class of 2009 – 10 years
- Class of 2004 – 15 years
- Class of 1999 – 20 years
- Class of 1994 – 25 years

Please let me know if you are the ones to help:

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.

Staying in Touch

Engagements

- **Jacqueline Freeman** ('93) and Andrew Sutton
- **Abigail Holman** ('06) and Christian Papandreas
- **Ilana Blum** ('11) and Desi Kohn (1)
- **Jennifer Matousovaskai** ('13) and James Del Marmol (2)

Weddings

- **Polina Madorsky** ('07) and Miles Ross, 13 July in Orta San Giulio, Italy (3)
- **Michael Weiss** ('04) and Aaron Hughes, 16 July 2018 in London (4)
- **Katrina Silvers** ('07) and Dave Siegel, 29 July 2018 in Malibu, USA (5)
- **Victoria Cash** ('08) and James Duffield, 3 October 2018 in Whistler, Canada (6)
- **Jess Weiss** ('09) and Kristy McChesney, 23 September 2018 (7)
- **Albert Gammer** ('95) and Ilana Lazar, 2 September 2018 (8)
- **Rebecca Roitman** ('11) and Max Illingworth, 27 October 2018 (9)
- **Sarah Herman** ('09) and Mike Joffe, 28 October 2018 (10)
- **Darius Kilstein** ('01) and Patricia Morán Losada 19 October 2018, Queen Mary, Long Beach USA (11)
- **Julie Drexler** ('98) and Andy Stone 4 November 2018 (12)

Births

- **Natalie (Vasin)** '99 and Nick Gainsley Jaxon, born 23 January 2018 in London (13)
- **Kim and Tim Moddel** ('00) Talya, born 11 March 2018, sister to Adam and Joshy
- **Daniel Coleman** ('02) and Beth Merfish Flora Mae Coleman-Merfish, born 18 June 2018, sister to Etta in Houston, Texas (14)
- **Gena (Rosenberg)** '02 and Tony Been Daisy Selena, born 15 July 1918, sister to Winona (15)
- **Alla (Kovarsky)** '03 and Ilya Serov Katherine Leah, born 19 July 2018 (16)
- **Keri (Gaddin)** '04 and **Nathan Holloway** ('04) Zahli, born 28 July 2018, sister to big brothers Jai and Koah (17)
- **Anna (Guth)** '05 and Ryan Hoffman Ethan Aron, born 1 August 2018 (18)
- **Joanna (Podgoetsky)** '99 and Petko Vasileva Mia Bella, born 21 September 2018 in Washington (19)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15

- **Leora (Mucsnik) '02 and Daniel Elison ('02)**
Archie Wolf, born 26 September 2018 (20)
- **Jessica (Rosenfeld) Friedman '93 and Peter Hines**
Jacob John Esbert Hines,
born 26 September 2018 (21)
- **Ellen and Jonathan Kummerfeld ('07)**
Joseph, born 15 October 2018 in Ann Arbor,
Michigan (22)



16



17



18



19



20



21



22

Our Youngest Alumni

Congratulations & welcome to our youngest members of the Emanuel School Alumni: Class of 2018.



Emanuel on Social Media



LinkedIn

As we update our Emanuel School LinkedIn page, we encourage you to connect with us, and don't forget to include the School on your profile: 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 now have over 800 members. Please join and stay in touch. Check it out and feel free to post on this page if you want to connect with other alumni and/or just let us know what you are up to. This page is yours and we would love to hear from you. Here is the link to join: 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/

Where are some of our Alumni now?

Jeanine Blachère (nee Prager) Class of 2000

"After I finished Year 12 in 2000, I went travelling to Europe for a few weeks before starting a bachelor of laws and bachelor of arts in international studies at UTS. I did an internship during this time with the UN in Sydney.

I did follow my field of study but stopped practicing law in 2014. The law wasn't made for me after all, and I was craving to do something more creative... I own a children's sleepwear brand called Comète Paris, that I created in December 2016. I like to travel, and anything to do with the arts: cinema, theatre, concerts, literature etc.

Ben my husband is an entrepreneur as well so yes, life is busy between our businesses and the kids, but we like it that way and we're blessed to have very easy going, adaptable little ones!

Aside from travel for holidays to South America, Asia and Europe, I studied in Rennes, France in 2004, did an internship with the law



firm Bird & Bird in Madrid in 2005 and worked at the London office of the law firm Baker & McKenzie in 2007. I have been living in Paris since I got married in 2011. Ben and I met in Sydney in 2005. I had just come back from my year in France and he was finishing 2 years of studies in Australia. Three months later, he left to go back to Europe. We did a year long distance, then he moved back to Sydney in July 2006, and the rest is history :)

What are my fondest memories of Emanuel School you ask? I arrived in Sydney from Uruguay and at Emanuel when I was 10, and aside from the first 6 months which were a little rough until I learned to speak English, I honestly only have fond memories of my time at school. The teachers were great, I always felt supported and encouraged from an academic perspective. I could name many, but the first that comes to mind is Mrs Robertson, who gave me a real passion for literature that I still have today. I made lifelong friends, and that says it all.

Quite a few of my friends from School have remained some of my closest friends.

Future plans? We are expecting our third child early March next year, so three children and my business will certainly keep me busy. We are planning a visit back to Sydney at the end of next year to see my parents, my sister and her family as well as catch up with friends.

Charlotte Weiss (nee Lewis) Class of 2009

What did you do after finishing Year 12? After finishing Year 12, three friends and I hopped on a plane to Europe for three months. I'm so happy to say I'm still good friends with all of them! I then went to UNSW for a Bachelor of Arts, thinking I'd transfer to Law or something.

Instead, I fell in love with Linguistics, and did it as a double major along with English Literature. I also ended up dating and marrying fellow Emanuel alum **Robbie Weiss** whom I had a huge crush on (we married in 2016).

Did you follow your field of study at the time? English and Linguistics are very specific areas of study. People often asked if I was planning on becoming a teacher. I actually wanted to be a professional Copy Editor, which I was lucky enough to do as my first full-time job out of university. However, I realised it wasn't the right path for me, and am now working as a Content Writer at an awesome tech startup in Boston!

Overseas travel – when and where? Yes, I did lot of it! Europe after school, Europe and the US during university, Europe again after university. And now, my husband and I have moved to Boston! We've been here for over a year now, and we are absolutely loving it.

What are your fondest memories of Emanuel School? Drama



classes with Mrs Bauer. English classes with Mr Stoneham, Dr Guy, and Mr Camp; sitting in the area behind the Music classroom with friends.

Are you still in touch with your group of friends from School? Luckily, yes. One was my Maid of Honour. I've been a bridesmaid for two. It's much harder now I'm in Boston, but we still have a WhatsApp group to keep up to date with news. They're all such wonderful friends, so it's tough being so far away.

What is your current occupation?

Interests and hobbies? I'm the Content Writer at Markforged, a 3D printer company in Boston. The printers are capable of printing in carbon fiber and stainless steel (with many more cool metals to come in the near future). I run the company's blog and podcast, run the case studies initiative, write white papers about additive manufacturing, and much more. Outside of work, I really enjoy travelling, baking, and trying all the different foods the world has to offer (I'm a bit of a foodie). I also like taking photos of food, and am learning more about food photography as I go. It's a great creative outlet in my already creative-rich life.

Future plans? Not sure for now. Boston is really great in the sense that it's so fast-paced and challenging. I've never been as challenged in a job as I am right now, and there's so much more of the world to see from this side of it.

Where are some of our Alumni now? continued

Robert (Robbie) Weiss

(Class of 2009)

What did you do after finishing Year 12?

After travelling for a few months, I began studying at UNSW in Mechatronic Engineering and Biomedical Engineering. I've since worked at a few companies creating medical devices, autonomous robots and (more recently) 3D printers. I started dating fellow alum **Charlotte Lewis** in our first week of university, and we've now been married for about two years.

Did you follow your field of study at the time? I'd say yes, I did. I've always worked in very engineering-focused roles. I love creating something new, something difficult, where you can't just Google the answers to the problems.

Overseas travel – when and where? Travel is something that's always on my mind. I love exploring new places and eating new foods. I've travelled a lot around Europe and went a 3-month trip around the US before I finished studying. I've since moved to Boston with Charlotte, where I'm working at Formlabs creating incredible 3D printers. Travel is easier here, with so many amazing US states and Canada nearby, which we've explored through countless road trips.



What are your fondest memories of Emanuel School? There are many! I loved sitting around with close friends during lunch in areas we'd regularly get kicked out from, doing cricket practice at the SCG, and playing games on our computers when we definitely should have been working.

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

Quite a few of them. I was lucky that I found a group of fantastic people at school, who I would regularly see for years afterwards. Geographically, it's a bit more difficult

to see them now that I am living in Boston, but we still regularly speak.

What is your current occupation? Interests and hobbies?

I'm currently an Embedded Software Engineer at Formlabs. I create the software that goes on the 3D printer to control the lasers, motors and sensors. I love being faced with challenging problems that need novel solutions every day. When I am not working, I love photography and take my camera everywhere I go. I find it's often a good excuse to go somewhere new or try something different. I also homebrew, making all sorts of different beers.

Future plans? To take advantage of how close everything is and travel as much as possible, something Charlotte and I love to do.

Dan Coleman

Class of 2002

"After I finished Year 12 at the end of 2002, I studied and earned my degree in Exercise Science at Australian Catholic University. While there, I spent a semester abroad at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Georgia. During time off, I worked as a camp counsellor and sports director at a Jewish camp in Georgia, as well.

After graduation, I took a job with Carnival Cruise Lines and eventually became Assistant Cruise Director. When a friend from camp offered me a job in advertising in Boulder, Colorado, I took a chance that started an entire career for me in experiential advertising.

I didn't really follow my field of study at the time, but I've found that some of the skills I learned in Exercise Science and in Hospitality have been easily transferable.

I've lived all over the US since graduation: Georgia, cruise ships docking in Orlando and New Orleans, Colorado, and now Houston, Texas, where my wife, Beth, was born and raised and where her career has taken us; it's now also home to my two daughters, Etta (3 years) and Flora (5 months). Beth and I met while living in Boulder, Colorado – she moved there to finish her dissertation and teach. We met on j-date (Jewish online dating).

While working on board the cruise liners, I travelled all over the Caribbean and Mexico,



Beth and I have been fortunate to be able to travel together, both around the US and internationally, to France, Chile, Easter Island, Bora Bora, Italy, New Zealand, and Mexico. I've also worked in England and Ukraine. Beth has come home to Australia with me a number of times; we also brought Etta to Sydney with a side trip to Hobart a few years ago.

My fondest memories of Emanuel School you ask? I truly

enjoyed my time at Emanuel. I was lucky enough to go from Temple Kindy all the way through Year 12 with a great bunch of people. I loved all of the sports carnivals and having the opportunity to represent the school in swimming. One of my favourite memories is the one and two cent races: each class would collect one and two cent coins and we would lay them out, end-to-end, and reach across the school. It instilled in me a great sense of tzedakah that I am proud to pass on to my daughters today.

I keep in touch with a bunch of school friends through Facebook and love seeing them when I'm home. I keep pretty good track of **Aiden Levy** (and his look-alike son), **Simone Skolnik**, and **Elisa Guth**, and I was

really thrilled to be able to attend **Rebekah Goodman's** wedding in Las Vegas just this year. I was so happy that **Stephen Kaplan** travelled to Houston in 2013 to attend my own wedding.

I am currently a full-time MBA student. I decided to pursue a graduate degree after a successful career in advertising and marketing; my hope is that my degree will open even more doors in those fields for me.

I've also started my own company during graduate school and have worked for clients including Hulu, HBO, and Moët & Chandon in the last year.

When I'm not working or in class, I spend the vast majority of my time with my daughters. Otherwise, I love to travel (especially when there's a ski mountain at my destination), cycle and cook overly elaborate dishes. Houston has a large Jewish community, and I am constantly finding new ways to be a part of it: I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Center in Houston and often volunteer at Etta's preschool, conveniently housed in Temple Emanuel (of Houston)!

I'll complete my MBA in May 2019 and am looking forward to seeing where that takes me in my career. My wife's career as an art history professor means that we'll stay in Houston, where she has a tenure-track position at a local university. We'll keep travelling as our daughters get older, and we'll be happy to see Emanuel friends the next time we're back in Sydney. I hope to one day bring my daughters to see the school and can tell them all about my time there".

The Emanuel School Family 1983

We are now only missing five 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 Medvedovsky, Zoe Spiegel, Kate Ratner, Jasmin Streimer, Alanah Zitzerman, Christina Lemkin, Simone Havin, _____, Talia Deutsch, Susan _____, _____, Georgia Teiperman, Janine Israel.
- Second Row (L-R): Alla Nock, Miriam Fox, Jenny Spinak, Jessica Bures, Ondine Sherman, Mandi Smith, Eli Haski, Daphny Ravy, Natasha Cherny, Khara Weisz, Svetlana Goltsman, Rachel Spiegel.
- Third Row (L-R): Benny Sharon, Daniel Vasin, Russel Bergman, Rueben Newhouse, Danny Sharon, David Jeffries, Julian Bures, Perlita Benhayon, Kolya Miller, Ben Fox, David Ratner, Jacob Kaplan, Alex Strizhevsky, Jonathan Hirst, Simon Glasser, Eric _____.
- Fourth Row (L-R): David Koteck, David 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, Daniel Sorauer, Michael Fooks, Leonid Goltsman, Harry Derunovsky, Alan Jeffries, Eugene Freeney, Ronnie Aron, Ari Marks, Christian Charnas, Yonaton Miller, Ben Donally, Ronen Stoller.
- Staff: LHS left to right: Sandi Einstein, Shirley Holt, Linda Zurnamer.
Middle of photo left to right: Lou-Anne Folder, Tom Wiedenman (Principal), Sarah Friend.
RHS left to right: Debbie Levy, Jeanette Streimer, Carol Perry.

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

20 Stanley Street Randwick NSW 2031
www.emanuelschool.nsw.edu.au

EMANUEL SCHOOL Where the Individual Excels