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Cheshvan–Sh'vat 5775
November–January 2014/5

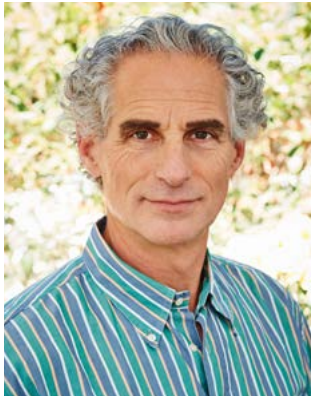
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עמנואל
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CONFLICTS & CONTRADICTIONS: EXPERIENCING ISRAEL FIRSTHAND



For the past five years I have been teaching a course on Monday mornings called “Our Jewish Story — the land and people of Israel”. We discuss the complexity of the situation both within Israel and for Israel within the Middle East. Now, to follow up on those conversations among our fabulous group of

learners, as well as conversations I have had with many of our community over the years, I am planning to take a group from our synagogue on an educational trip to Israel during the first two weeks of June 2015.

...we will look at the challenges between Israeli Arab and Israeli Jew, as well as Israelis and Palestinians, settlers and refugees, rich and poor, secular and religious and more

I began preliminary discussions about this synagogue tour with one of the premier educators in Israel, Steve Israel, a couple of years ago. I have known Steve for over 20 years because of his work as one of the informal educators with the Melton Education Program run out of Hebrew University; others from Australia know him for his ground-breaking, motivational work with WUJS, the World Union of Jewish Students. Steve’s methodology is to do on-site, text-based education, to challenge a learner’s assumptions, to present a multiplicity of viewpoints, and to allow one to draw one’s own conclusions. A few years ago he and I spoke about doing a tour around a concept raised in Meron Benveniste’s 1986 book, *Conflicts and Contradictions*. While Benveniste was focusing primarily on the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, we intend to investigate that and much more.

There are many fault lines in Israeli society we intend to explore. Of course we will look at the challenges between Israeli Arab and Israeli Jew, as well as Israelis and Palestinians, settlers and refugees, rich and poor, secular and religious and more. We will do this through conversations organised and facilitated


by Steve. At the same time, we will not over program, allowing for free time particularly in the evenings. For maximal comfort and educational opportunity we will limit the tour to 20 participants. The tour will begin in Tel Aviv from June 2 through June 6, staying at the Dan Panorama; then we will proceed to Haifa from June 7–9, staying at the Bay Club Hotel and conclude our tour in Jerusalem, again staying at the Dan Panorama there from June 10–15. The tour price of approximately \$US 3,800 includes all ground transportation and four-star accommodation, educational program and the following meals: all breakfasts, Shabbat meals and the opening and closing dinners. Transportation to and from Israel will be the individual’s responsibility, in order to allow for flexibility to travel to other destinations before and after the Israel tour.

I am aware the tour is expensive, and also that the fluctuation of the dollar will have some impact on costs. At this point, I am looking for expressions of interest, and that will allow me to follow up and get firm commitments over the months ahead. This tour is not “Israel 101” — we assume people have been there before and thus we will not be going to Masada, Yad Vashem or other iconic places as part of the tour (many will choose to do this before, or after, or during free time). This tour is an incredible opportunity to experience the conflicts and contradictions in Israel firsthand and learn from one of Israel’s most interesting and informed educators about the complexities of life there, and how we as individual Jews not living there can better understand and engage with Israel. One of the reasons lunches and most dinners are not included is to give each of the participants free time to reflect and interact with the local society.

I am passionate about Israel as being at the heart and soul of what it means to be a Jew. As we have been learning on Monday mornings, our story begins in the Torah about the relationship of the Jews with the land, trying to be a model society teaching about justice, compassion and what it means to be a human being. The rest of the Bible discusses our history in the land during the First Temple period, while the early rabbinic traditions discuss our second attempt at sovereignty during the Second Temple period. Much of the rabbinic Judaism we know and maintain was constructed by those rabbis as a way to maintain our national identity while we were in exile from the land after the destruction of the Second Temple in the year 70 CE. It worked. We continued to use Hebrew as our language of prayer and learning, we kept Israel and Jerusalem in the forefront of our minds, and we never stopped yearning to rebuild our lives there. And so we returned to rebuild our homeland.

During that period of time, things had changed from the early rabbinic period. The land was renamed Palestine by its Roman conquerors and ruled for hundreds of years by the Byzantine Empire. Beginning in the seventh century, the forces of Islam conquered the land and held rule over it with various caliphates based in other cities around the Middle East, the final one again from Istanbul in the Ottoman Empire. Over the centuries, the land became primarily an Arab one, populated by Muslims, Christians and Jews. With the creation of the State of Israel, the problem of Arab refugees began, at the same time as Israel began absorbing Jews from all over the world who had very different socio economic backgrounds, experiences and belief systems. Yet, something holds this incredibly vibrant country together, the country that inspired me to pursue my Judaism, the ways of our ancestors, the heritage bequeathed to us, the dreams for the future, for humanity. I look forward to hearing from you about your desire to take this tour with me in 2015.

Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins




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CHATAN TORAH: GARRY DAVIS



This year we were thrilled to honour Garry Davis as our chatan Torah during our Simchat Torah celebrations. Garry has been a stalwart of our congregation and has given so much to progressive Judaism throughout the region.

Garry was president of NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education for six years and he continues there now as its immediate past president. In his role he worked tirelessly to promote the provision of Jewish education which is progressive and pluralist to all students who are not attending Jewish day schools. He led BPJE and structured it to become the model it is today and the dynamic organization

it continues to be in the community. Through his work he has sought Jewish communities who are not in the main centres and provided them with quality pluralistic education and resources for both children and adults.

Garry has also given his time and energy to the JCA Investment Committee as well as heading the Emanuel School Foundation. Garry also served on our synagogue board with distinction as a director and treasurer, always giving of his time, energy and expertise with generosity and kindness. Garry is unbelievably giving and has always shown incredible insight and understanding of the communities he has served and has helped to shape and grow the organisations with which he has worked. He is passionate about Jewish education and continuity and committed to the causes he helps. He is a role model, teacher, inspiration and guide. We are blessed to have him part of our community and to honour him for his contribution.

COURAGE IN COMMUNITY



The “ping” in my email inbox was welcome relief from my preparations for sukkah decorating and organising the multitude of events happening during the days and weeks ahead. I was prepared for an “urgent” message about the latest bargain at Riot, a crucial article about *The Bachelor* that I

absolutely had to read at that moment or a vital survey from Virgin needing my opinion about the service on my last flight. But instead I read the title of an email that was actually urgent. It read: “request for assistance with a Rabbi from Chicago, Illinois USA, who lost his wife on a cruise ship heading to Sydney.” And then a matter of minutes later from another source: “The death of a colleague’s wife, URGENT.” And minutes later a call from Israel, all about the same man; a rabbi who was travelling with his wife on a cruise to Australia from the USA. He was the rabbi of the cruise, doing services for High Holydays and just after Yom Kippur his wife became ill and died on the ship. He was due to arrive in Sydney on second day sukkot and his friends, family and colleagues were reaching out from all the corners of the world for Australians to help him in this time of tragedy.

I sometimes read the stories in the Jewish folk tradition where we find, usually impoverished, people welcoming strangers into their homes ... and despair of our world where such actions do not seem to happen anymore.

What happened next was incredible. Two families from the community offered to host him in their home, one went to meet his boat so he would not be alone at this difficult time as he waited for the paperwork and processes to be in place for him to take his wife home. The community sprung into action, working to protect, care for and be with this grieving man, to guide him through these days in a strange land where he knew nobody. But it turns out it is not a strange land and he did know somebody because he was Jewish. He immediately had community, people around him to care for him and to welcome him into their homes and hearts.

I remember many years ago my uncle had a call from a young man who was travelling. He found himself completely broke and in real trouble. He called my uncle who was, at the time, the president of the Orthodox synagogue in Adelaide. The young man said: “my dad told me if ever I am in trouble, I should go to the Jewish community and they will help me. I am in trouble and I need help.” My uncle gave him some money and assistance having no idea who the young man was, whether or not he was genuine but that did not matter, the young man had come to the community for help and that was all that my uncle needed to know. The young man thanked my uncle profusely and promised to return the favour. My uncle did not think anything much of it until nearly a year later, a letter of thanks arrived at his door along with repayment of the money he had given the young man.

I sometimes read the stories in the Jewish folk tradition where we find, usually impoverished, people welcoming strangers into their homes and sharing their meagre belongings with them. I read these tales and despair of our world where such actions do not seem to happen anymore. Where we live in cocoons of suspicion, wary of strangers, not wanting to talk to them let alone invite them into our homes. But stories such as the one about the rabbi and the young man and my uncle, remind me that even though we live in a different world, the young man’s father was right, when we are in trouble, when we need help, the Jewish community is there for us. We will never be alone, we will never be strangers because there is a link which binds us together and cannot be broken.

Communities are places where we reach out to one another, where we welcome the stranger, we care for the sick, we reach out to those in need and these are not just ideals, they are real, lived values. How many of us have walked into a synagogue on the other side of the world where we know nobody and been welcomed, invited for Shabbat dinner? How many of us have shared powerful, beautiful moments with Jews with whom we had nothing in common except our religion, but that was more than enough?

This connection that we have with Jews all over the world makes it all the more painful when we hear of the rise of anti-Semitism and the return of messages we thought were long buried. Unfortunately it seems that they were not buried deeply, instead they were lying just beneath the surface ready to raise their ugly heads again at the first opportunity. We read stories of our communities being attacked, of Jews in France feeling afraid and making aliyah in record numbers. We see images from Europe that we never thought we

would see again and it is frightening, we are scared for ourselves and we are afraid for Jews wherever we face persecution and threats, because we are not separate entities, we are one.

I hope and pray that we can all find courage in community to stand together and to reach out a hand in friendship, in love and in welcome

When the despicable act of anti-Semitism happened on the school bus here, my friends, acquaintances and strangers wrote to me from all over the world to see if our community was ok, if we were alright. We are connected. Once it was described to me as a body, that each community of Jews in the world is a part of this body and when one part hurts, we all hurt. And at the moment we are hurting but comfort must come from the fact that we are hurting together, that no Jew is ever alone, that we call on one another to reach out, to help and to fight against the forces of hate and evil in the world.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks pointed out in his Rosh Hashana message that the people who are spreading the anti-Semitism are not just the enemies of the Jews, they are, he argues, the enemies of freedom, of compassion and of peace. Christians are being slaughtered, Muslims are being butchered and so many people are facing this same

enemy and we must stand together to rid our world of the poison and hatred and we do that by affirming life and what unites us rather than what divides us. We stand together, hand in hand across the oceans and we say as one, we will not allow this to happen, we will fight this scourge and we will live. The Jewish people are one, we argue, we disagree, we debate but when it comes to the crunch, we stand as one; communities, individuals who reach out to one another because whenever a Jew is in trouble, they can turn to the community and we will be there.

I hope and pray that we can all find courage in community to stand together and to reach out a hand in friendship, in love and in welcome. That we will always be there for one another, not just strangers who need our help, but those in our communities with whom we share Shabbat services, classes, moments every week. We have the chance to be a presence, a force for good in the world and I hope that we can continue always to be that together, in the challenging times but also in the good, blessed times.

I hope to see you at one or more of the many events at the synagogue in the months ahead.

Rabbi Jacqueline Ninio



2 to 5 year olds

First Friday of the month – resuming February 6, 2015

A lovely way to introduce your children to Shabbat and an opportunity to meet other families in the community. Join Rabbi Ninio for a noisy, song-filled prayer service, followed by some dancing, stories and a craft activity. Visit www.emanuel.org.au for details.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...



When determining the direction of a school year, educators normally begin with the end goal in mind. As we plan our Jewish education for the coming year, we should ask ourselves — what we hope to instill in the next generation and how we plan to get them there.

When we were raising our two daughters, my husband and I did the same thing (on a personal level), and thought of the following Jewish goals:

1. They should celebrate the Chaggim (festivals) and Shabbat, and they should mark them as different from their every day lives — be it with lighting of candles, celebratory food (normally a big one in our house), having a special time surrounded with family and friends.
2. They should have a strong bond with Israel — visiting often (finances permitting), an understanding of Hebrew, have an ear always open to news from Israel and most importantly knowing that they too have a part to play in the development of the country.
3. They should have open houses — always welcoming people and surrounding them with warmth and friendship.
4. They should have an understanding of Synagogue etiquette — be able to find their way around a siddur and a machzor, be able to walk into any synagogue any where in the world and feel comfortable in the service.
5. They should be charitable — understand the Jewish imperative of Tikkun Olam — repairing the world and the necessity to stand up and be counted.
6. They should identify as Jews — be proud of their family and their heritage.
7. Most important of all — they should grow up to embody the qualities of being a mensch.

So, the BIG question is — if we were to extend this to the children of our community, how could we possibly achieve these goals? How do we make Judaism meaningful to the next generation?

I was fortunate to recently attend a Jewish Education Conference in Santa Monica. NewCaje is the largest Jewish Education Conference in the world and

draws in delegates from Orthodox, Conservative and Progressive communities. The most exciting idea that was spoken about was the teaching through PBL (Problem based Learning / Project Based Learning / Passion Based Learning). Problem based learning is a successful teaching and learning strategy used to engage students in deep rather than surface learning, and where the learning is student focused rather than teacher focused (Biggs, 1999; 2003). Project Based Learning is an education methodology that emphasises authentic learning activities that engage students' interests and create natural motivation for student participation.

This strategy encourages:

1. A new focus placed on learning through authentic Jewish experiences for children and families.
2. Relationship and community building between children and families being a visibly central goal of our program.
3. Our educators become "Jewish Learning Guides," who engage children and adults in Jewish life and learning.
4. The strategy may include Jewish Learning Guides being engaged far more hours each week to allow for teamwork, planning, learning, and regular ongoing connection with families.
5. Learning experiences are deepened and made more relevant through hands on projects. Instead of relying on textbooks as the centerpiece of the learning experience, books become resources for learning driven by children's questions.
6. Hebrew learning begins in Kindergarten and reading skill acquisition is intensified in 5/6 grade.

This type of learning has made a splash in the secular education world, and it can be a powerful tool for Jewish classrooms, too. In fact, project based learning can be a dynamic technique for teaching a wide range of Judaic topics, especially Jewish values. Why? Because we want students to live Jewish values, not just study them, and PBL is all about learning in the context of real life: Project based learning is hands-on, student-driven, and involves projects designed around real-world activities. Students build life skills while researching and tackling issues that are meaningful to them, resulting in learning that can be deeper and more lasting.

There is no magic formula — whatever approach we take must be authentic. We need to partner with parents so that Judaism is not something that the students just do at shul, but rather that it is integrated into all aspects of their lives. We need to create real and meaningful experiences. We can't



teach about Shabbat in the classroom unless we mark the day as different at home. Our goals need to be infused into our homes. We need to look at the whole educational experience that we give the students. There needs to be a team approach to learning.

For Jewish education to succeed, it must be a combination of content, skill building and affective experiences. The partnership between home, school and synagogue is vital in creating these meaningful experiences. Jewish education is a process, each generation has the responsibility to learn from and to teach the other.

"It takes a village to raise a child."

Sandy Hollis
Director of Education



SHABBAT DINNER

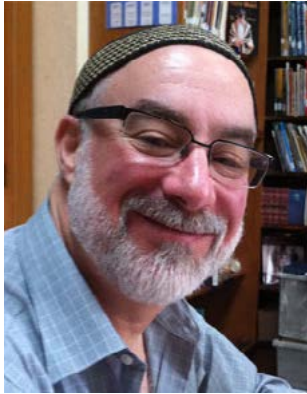
Join us for our last communal Shabbat Dinner of 2014, with visiting Rabbi Benjamin Segal as he discusses **"The Essence of Shabbat"**.

Rabbi Benjamin Segal is an author and lecturer, living in Jerusalem, past president both of Melitz, the Centers for Jewish and Zionist Education, and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies. He has taught in a wide range of venues, from informal education to university courses, and frequently lectures in America, Canada and England. He and his wife Judy made aliyah in 1973, and have five children and sixteen grandchildren.

- Date:** Friday 21 November
Time: Immediately following Erev Shabbat services
Location: Emanuel Synagogue, 7 Ocean St, Woollahra
Cost: Adults \$30/\$35 (members/non-members)



GUEST RABBI JORDAN COHEN



Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen is the Rabbi of Temple Anshe Sholom in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Originally from Toronto, Rabbi Cohen previously served as Rabbi of the United Jewish Congregation of Hong Kong, the only Liberal Rabbi at the time serving in Asia. Rabbi

Cohen has worked and studied in Canada, Israel, the United States and served for five years as Rabbi of the North Shore Temple Emanuel in Sydney, Australia. Rabbi Cohen holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of Waterloo and Master's degrees in both Hebrew Letters and Jewish Education. He was ordained as a Rabbi at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. A popular teacher and avid storyteller, Rabbi Cohen has served as Associate Director of Kolel, the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto, on the faculty of the internationally renowned Brandeis-Bardin Institute in Los Angeles, and was the Founding Director of The Orchard, an innovative Multifaith Spirituality Centre located in Peterborough, Ontario. Rabbi Cohen has published in the areas of Jewish education and folklore, and his weekly Internet Torah commentaries have been translated into three languages. Rabbi Cohen is married to Paula Baruch and together they share six wonderful children.

Rabbi Ninio and I are looking forward to welcoming Rabbi Jordan Cohen back to the Sydney community for the period of January–June 2015. Rabbi Cohen and I were classmates at Hebrew Union College, although he was ordained a year after me because he attained a Masters in Jewish Education as well. We then had the time together in Sydney from 1992–1997 while he was rabbi at North Shore Temple Emanuel. Many of you will be aware that we have a large congregation and with the departure in the last couple of years of Rabbi Jacobson and Martin Yafe are in the midst of a search for a Cantor and potentially a third rabbi. Rabbi Cohen let us know that he would love to work in Sydney during his six month sabbatical from his pulpit in Toronto. Rabbi Cohen's experience and calibre of work will be a great support to our entire community and give us further time for considered searching for appropriate long term candidates. — Rabbi Jeffrey B. Kamins

Dear members of Emanuel Synagogue,

It is with great excitement that I have the honour of serving Emanuel Synagogue during my sabbatical in an interim position. I look forward to joining with Rabbis Kamins and Ninio in service to the congregation and to return to Sydney, which was previously my home for five years. This is a synagogue steeped in Australian Progressive history that has stellar reputation for meaningful, pluralistic Jewish life. It has been wonderful to learn of the many varied programs, services, and study groups as well as community affiliations in which Emanuel Synagogue is engaged. I look forward to meeting and knowing as many of you as possible and look forward to studying, praying, and learning together as well as participating in the rich Jewish life of Sydney.

L'Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JC' or 'Jordan'.

Rabbi Jordan D. Cohen

REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Redevelopment Committee remains as committed as ever to ensuring that this once-in-a-generation opportunity will be achieved within budget, provide value for money and maximise the utility for the entire community.

I am excited to advise you that the new design for our whole-of-campus redevelopment is nearing completion and is almost ready to be submitted to Woollahra Council, thus commencing the Development Application approval process. Informal preliminary meetings have already been held and Council is aware of our revised strategy.

We have a fully-assembled team of professionals working with us to help realise the new proposal — some of whom, from within our own Emanuel Synagogue community, are generously giving their services and expertise pro bono.

The new set of plans includes a new medium-sized prayer sanctuary, a learning centre, a preschool and an additional smaller prayer space. Further details of the revised whole-of-campus redevelopment proposal will be made available to all members before the end of the year.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing the new plans with you very soon.

Sincerely,

Louise Thurgood-Phillips
Board President



PS. If you have any queries regarding the redevelopment project, please email: **redevelopment@emanuel.org.au** and we will be in touch to answer your questions.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT



Ashleigh Jacob Antflick
currently sits on the Emanuel Synagogue Board as Honorary Treasurer, having already served the community in this role during 2011 & 2012.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Paddington, studying first at Sydney Grammar and then the University of New South Wales. I have spent a lot of time over the years living and working in North America and Western Europe, but have always considered myself to be a Sydney-sider.

What does your typical Sunday look like?

There is no such thing as a typical Sunday in our house. However, I am frequently up at 5 or 6am to ride my motorcycle. After a couple hundred kilometres I get home around 10am, and my family is usually ready for a late breakfast. If the weather holds we are often doing something energetic outside. The children love the beach in summer, and indoor rock climbing in winter.

What's your favourite book/film?

Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* had a profound effect on me during my undergraduate years. With age, I have come to acknowledge that the heroism and idealism of her characters is neither necessarily attainable nor desirable. Nevertheless, there was a time in my life when I would happily and seriously respond to the question "Who is John Galt?", with a resounding "Me!"

If you could have dinner with one "celebrity" (dead or alive), who would it be?

Celebrity, like art, is in the eye of the beholder. I would like to go out for steak with my grandfathers, Morris and Neville, and my father, Sid...when we were all 30 years old. If that were possible, I think the four of us would carry on until the next evening.

Tell us a bit about your family.

Suzanna and I met skiing in Thredbo. I was told about her in the car ride to the snow, and was in love with her before we even met. We were together for about 7 years when Suzanna decided we should "get serious" and buy a house together. I decided we should "get serious" and start a family. Within 12 months we were living in an old terrace in Potts Point, and my son Oscar-Louis had contributed to my first grey hair. Felix joined us 2 and half years later. When we decided to get married, I had

my sons as best men....a little unusual, but very special nonetheless. Saskia came into our lives three years later. We now live in Darling Point. The house is always a blur of movement, and cacophony of sounds with English, Slovak and French being used interchangeably.

What's your favourite Jewish holiday/festival?

Pesach! I love the relaxed atmosphere of the seder service, the participation of the children, and the telling of Our Story. So much of what it means to be Jewish is bound up in the Exodus story...and I love that my mother has been the Wicked Son for 60 years without interruption.

What's your first memory of Emanuel Synagogue?

It was a sunny July morning in 1989 and I was riding my skateboard in front of our house Paddington. My uncle was on the Board of the Synagogue at the time, and he arrived with a young American for a cup of coffee. The young American was a cool dude in a kippah, and immediately made an impression on me. It was of course our very own Rabbi Kamins who had just arrived in Sydney. I think I was the first Sydney teenager that he had met!

What made you want to join the board at Emanuel Synagogue, rather than offering your time & expertise somewhere else?

Four years ago I was asked to join the Board. I felt and thought then, as I do now, that it was my time to stand-up and make a substantial contribution to future of our community. On that note, I want to encourage other 30 or 40-somethings to consider what they can do too. Life is busy. And there are never enough hours in the day. But ask yourself, "If I contribute to shaping the future of our community now, what could it look like in 10 years?" If you are interested in finding out the answer, introduce yourself to our nominations committee.

What's your "day job"?

I am the Managing Director of an independent electricity company, called Elementus Energy. We develop, own and operate solar farms in Australia. Recently I was asked to join the NSW Board of Progressive Jewish Education.

What has surprised you most about being on the board of the synagogue?

I am forever surprised by the effectiveness of our organisation. We have over 1,400 member units, representing nearly 3,000 people, and that number just keeps growing! Delivering engaging, spiritual and sensitive services to this many people is a big challenge. Thankful we have dedicated Rabbis, supported by a fantastic team.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Andrina Grynberg is
PA to Rabbi Kamins.

Where did you grow up?

In a beautiful town in the middle of Ireland called Tullamore. Surrounded by countryside, with rivers and old castles — life was amazing for a tomboy like me with a vivid imagination and desire to climb things!!

What does your typical Sunday look like?

Coffee in bed delivered by my daughter then, weather dependant, the park or the beach. Almost always an afternoon get together with friends who share our love of good food and wine, and lots of children.

What's your favourite book/film?

The Shining... I've always had a love of horror books and movies.

What's the first album you ever bought?

I can't remember, but as a kid I would sit beside my tape player and record my favourite songs from the radio. I would then play and replay them, writing the lyrics down word for word and learning it off by heart. (It rained a lot in Ireland ya know).

If you could have dinner with one "celebrity" (dead or alive), who would it be?

Bob Marley, or if he wasn't up to it I'd have dinner with Hercule Poirot.

What one word would your friends/colleagues/family use to describe you?

Generous.

Tell us a bit about your family.

I am one of five children (in those days that was a small family where I come from!) My dad was a fireman, my mum worked hard to keep the family ticking along, we had plenty of cousins who lived across the road, down the road, up the road. My childhood was full of adventures with friends (we thought we were the Goonies), exploring the fields and orchards that surround my town.

What's your first memory of Emanuel Synagogue?

Many moons ago when I attended my first High Holydays in the Masorti at the NCJW. It was Yom Kippur and I'd never felt so hungry in my entire life!!

What made you decide to apply for a job at Emanuel Synagogue?

I'm not sure...I think it came about from conversations I had with Rabbi Kamins throughout my conversion process. I was in the right place at the right time

— it's been two and a half years now and I haven't looked back.

What has surprised you most about working at the synagogue?

I love the atmosphere in the office, I work with some great people — there is always lots to laugh and cry about. They are like an extension of my Australian family. I have made some great friendships and have developed a love for cheesecake (Shavuot A.K.A. the cheesecake pandemic!!) Specifically in my role as Rabbi Kamins' PA I deal with all life cycle events, some joyous, some not so. I am constantly rewarded by my interactions and conversations with the members of our community in their times of joy and sadness.

What's something that your colleagues might be surprised to learn about you?

I'm not a natural blonde!!! Also, when I was 15 I was sent to New Orleans as an ambassador for the young people of Ireland, to participate in a project that was about bringing kids from all religious backgrounds together to show how alike we all were, despite of our beliefs. It was a trip that changed my life forever.

Anything else you think we should know?

I have an amazing husband, Ari, and three rambunctious, clever and loving children Ruby, Charli and Oscar. We live in Coogee with our overweight beagle Coco. I am blessed with amazing parents in law, Robert and Katya, and an amazing, supportive and loving extended family.

SHABBAT LIVE

A spiritual, meaningful & musical
Shabbat experience.
Every Friday 6:15pm.

Shabbat services at Emanuel Synagogue
7 Ocean St. Woollahra

emanuel synagogue
creating community • celebrating diversity

MY REAL JEWISH IDENTITY



Almost all my life, the question of “who am I?” was an idea that occupied many of my thoughts. Growing up in a Jewish and Zionist community in South America produced in me a deep connection to my Jewish Identity. The sole fact that my parents decided to give me an Israeli name put a “mark” on my identity that guided

me and made me want to “maximise” my feeling of belonging. The pick of this journey was when I moved to Israel. But hasn’t finished there. During my “shlichut” in Australia, the self questioning and learning continued. Especially during the last conflict in Israel when I could see the pain and confusion in young people and adults that live a life full of different frameworks and colors away from Israel, but Judaism is always there, sometimes bothering their harmonious life.

On the other hand, I understand the complexity of the western world and the globalisation of almost everything, including identity. During the last war against Hamas, many Israelis and Jews were forced to make a decision. Do they identify themselves with Israel and Judaism, or do they prefer to “erase” that part of their identity? There are some other Jews (in my opinion completely mistaken) who decided a third option: to identify themselves just with the Jewish faith putting aside the “peoplehood”.

We live in a post-modern world, where people have a very complex identity. Some feel attached to their citizenship, some others more attached to their gender; some describe themselves considering their hobbies, taste for music, sports or movies. Others define themselves with their political ideas, the origin of their ancestors, and of course many define themselves based on their faith.

There are many theories and explanations about “what is Jewish identity?” and even more texts about what the *components* of a Jewish identity should be. I see no other explanation than PEOPLEHOOD. We are a people (*Am Yisrael*) with a faith (Judaism). Our DNA of identity was, is, and will be to maintain our definition as AM ISRAEL (The people of Israel).

To be this kind of people, we needed a series of conditions. One of them is to be a society. In Jewish history we learn about our tribes, our kingdoms and our laws. As with most of the AMIM (nations) throughout history, we were exposed to wars and

stronger civilisations that tried to conquer us. We were expelled and sent to the exile. But through that exile something absolutely amazing happened. Our Judaism suffered a transformation, a “survival mode” evolution, which many other nations failed to do and disappeared. History and people changed how we see ourselves so we can keep, deep inside our hearts and minds, our identity as a nation. Our faith became crucial in keeping alive this feeling and our true identity. Finally, Zionism came along trying to set free this identity.

An excellent scholar, Gadi Taub, describes the intention of Zionism as being to liberate the Jewish identity rather than the pure creation of a state. Nevertheless he explains that without a homeland, it is impossible to liberate the Jewish identity:

“Zionism would need Zion: a national conception of Jewish identity would not make sense outside the ancient homeland any more than a English identity would outside England, or a German identity would without Germany. Still, Zion was a means, not an end. The end was liberating Jews. Herzl thought that Jews would neither be safe nor truly free within the existing European political order, and so concluded that *in order to free them as individuals they must be freed as a collective*. If Jews cannot become free and equal citizens of other republics, they would need their own independent state, in which they would become active democratic citizens.”

Moreover, after the creation of the state, the first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion explained the following:

it is “the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign state.”

We can understand that Zionism begins with individual liberty, and continues to the realisation that such individual liberty is conditional upon collective self-determination.

Going back to my experience here in Australia: I am lucky enough and blessed to work with two beautiful communities, Emanuel Synagogue and North Shore Temple Emanuel. During the last CHAGGIM I had the honor to be called to the torah. Amazingly enough (or not), the senior rabbis of these communities each expressed, on different occasions, how my views about Israel are not always aligned to the main Hasbara (advocacy) line. First of all I feel very honoured, as that was exactly my intention and it is my belief. This is mainly because my understanding of Zionism is that it is *the liberation of our identity* and not our political view about the state of Israel. We can be left or right but understanding our identity as Jews makes us Zionists.

I could be very critical about the political decisions of the state, but at the same time I know we are blessed and lucky to have the chance to have a state that we can build and correct as the vehicle of our liberation as Jews.

What I'm trying to write with these words, is that this feeling we sometimes have that we are forced (because external circumstances push us) to identify ourselves as Jews, happens because of the nature of our identity. Don't worry, I'm not trying to convince you to move to Israel, as this is an extremely personal decision. And yet if you do, it will be great and you will be welcomed.

What I'm trying to do is to answer our questions about Jewish Identity. We need to understand that we (Jews) can live anywhere in the world, as Italians, Greeks, Americans, Germans live in different countries. But the true liberation of our identity is only as nation.

That is why, whether we wanted to or not, even if we try to hide it, Jews will be considered a nation identified with a state. We need to understand it in order to embrace it and make it ours.

Reform Zionism teaches Zionism using the value of tikkun olam (reparation of the world). "We are not only "a" nation, *we are a nation that needs to be an example to others.*

If we don't take responsibility for our identity as nation, then we will turn our back on our Judaism — the same Judaism that succeeded in surviving 2,000 years of exile, and continues to survive postmodernism, where almost everything becomes subjective and fails to provide leaving behind and apart an important meaning to life. In order to connect to our Judaism we should do it by connecting to our faith and to our nationhood at the same time.

May our identity bring peace and meaning to our life, may we help to repair the world, being proud of our identity.

Yuval Nemirovsky

Netzer & Community Shaliach NSW

ROSH CHODESH WOMEN'S GROUP

Upcoming meetings: Nov 23 (Kislev), Feb 17 (Adar), March 22 (Nisan), April 7 (Women's seder)



Why a Women's Rosh Chodesh Group?

There is a legend told that when the Israelites came to create the golden calf, the men asked the women to give them all their jewellery and gold to be melted down for the calf. The women refused to supply their jewels and as a reward a special festival was given to them: the festival of Rosh Chodesh, the celebration of the new moon.

A number of women in our congregation expressed an interest in participating in a Rosh Chodesh group and began meetings in 1999. We decided to hold the events on the day of the new moon and as such, the day of the week changes every month.

The form, structure and content of the group is evolving as we come to know one another better and discover common interests and pursuits. We begin with a short prayer to welcome the new month. Followed by a discussion about topics of interest led by a different person each meeting.

We have a broad range of ages and perspectives in the group which is warm, welcoming and open. We would love to have anyone who is interested or curious come and join us at any or all of our gatherings.

All Rosh Chodesh meetings begin at 8:00pm in the homes of our members. Please call the Emanuel office before the meeting to find out the location on **9389 6444**.

Any questions: call the office or email info@emanuel.org.au

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN ARZA NOW

ARZA represents and works on behalf of the Progressive community of Australia in matters relating to Israel.

We are in the front line of supporting Israel's right to exist in security and peace. We are in the front line of combatting efforts to marginalise or delegitimise Israel in the eyes of the world.

However, unlike some other groups, we are also committed to helping Israel fulfill the promise of its Declaration of Independence to be a home for all Jews and to provide freedom of conscience and religion to all of her citizens.

As Progressive Jews we have a particular interest in changing some of the anomalies that have arisen as Israel struggled to survive and to develop a modern and sophisticated society in the Middle East.

ARZA is committed to achieving religious freedom for all, rather than the current domination of the ultra-Orthodox.

ARZA is committed to achieving religious equality — meaning that all rabbis and congregations should receive the same level of state support, instead of the current situation where all Orthodox rabbis and congregations are funded and all but a handful of non-Orthodox rabbis are not.

ARZA is committed to religious equality that includes a prayer space at the Kotel where men and women can pray together.

ARZA is committed to our children and grandchildren seeing Israel as their spiritual homeland and as a place that they will love, support and think about living in.

ARZA is a proud and active member of the World Zionist Organisation, seeking to work in partnership with all individuals and groups who want Israel to be strong and healthy.

ARZA is part of the largest faction in the World Zionist Congress and has succeeded in introducing many positive and democratic changes. To continue to achieve these goals we need you, and every person you know over 18 years of age, to be a member of ARZA.

For just \$10 per year, as a member of ARZA, you can make a real difference — here and in Israel.

Please join today by calling **(02) 9413 1282**; emailing arza@arza.org.au; or through the website www.arza.org.au.

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THE “WORLD” COMES TO US



It might not be quite the mountain coming to Mohammed, but during November the leadership of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), plus Special conference guest, Yaron Shavit, will be visiting our region.

There is no question that this is an exceptional opportunity for the members of congregations in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Auckland and Hong Kong – as well as the 150 delegates to the UPJ biennial conference – to meet and speak with the world leaders of the Progressive Movement.

In his first overseas trip as President of the WUPJ, Rabbi Danny Frelander will be outlining his vision for the future of Progressive Judaism in Israel and around the world, as well as discussing the important role that our region plays with the world movement. We also very much look forward to greeting Rabbi Elyse Frishman who, as well as being the editor of the original Mishkan T'filah, is the wife of Rabbi Frelander.

Participants in previous UPJ conferences will be acquainted with the dedication and passion that the WUPJ's Chief Operating Officer, Shai Pinto, brings to his work and to his interactions with the Jewish Agency, and the UIA on behalf of developing Progressive Judaism in Israel.

We are also blessed to have the current Chairman of the WUPJ, Mike Grabiner visiting us from England as well as Senior Vice-Chair, Carole Sterling from Canada and the Chair of the European UPJ, Miriam Kramer, who is also from the U.K.

In addition to these outstanding leaders and the amazing breadth of local talent that will be presenting at the UPJ conference, “Ani v'Atah” (‘You and I — can change the world’) we will also be welcoming Special Guest, Yaron Shavit, his wife Michal and his two children. Yaron has a distinguished career in the IDF; is the Immediate Past President of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism; and is currently involved at the highest levels of the World Zionist Organisation and the Jewish Agency, as well as running a successful law firm in Tel-Aviv.

To meet all of these outstanding people you will need to attend the conference in Adelaide from 20–23 November. However, you can also hear a number of them by checking their complete itineraries on the UPJ website www.upj.org.au.

Steve Denenberg
Executive Director





UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

BIENNIAL 2014

20-23 November

Adelaide, South Australia

Ani v'Atah אני ואני



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THE “WORLD” COMES TO US



An exciting Jewish retreat called Limmud Fest is taking place in late November, and I invite the Emanuel Synagogue community to come along for a weekend of stimulation, conversation and relaxation.

Limmud Fest is a unique community-wide festival of Jewish culture held

over November 28–30 at Challenge Ranch on the NSW Central Coast, set in beautiful natural surrounds. As co-chair of Limmud Fest, I welcome you to a weekend filled with dynamic and diverse learning sessions, combined with a festive and social atmosphere.

With three or more sessions running concurrently throughout the weekend, there is also time for physical activity, relaxation, socialising, and enjoying the unique Shabbat experience. The Limmud Fest Shabbat program includes:

- Communal Kabbalat Shabbat
- Progressive and orthodox services throughout Shabbat
- Catered Shabbat dinner and lunch alongside 200 Jews of all ages
- A traditional Friday night tisch with songs, drinks and snacks
- Havdalah outdoors with communal singing to close Shabbat

We have an impressive line-up of over 40 speakers and other presenters from Australia & overseas, who will be running sessions from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. International presenters include Middle East analyst Hagai Segal speaking on Israel’s strategic priorities and the rise of the far right in Europe. We have brought Hebrew University’s Israel Studies lecturer David Mendelsson to Australia especially for Limmud Fest, where he’ll be speaking about contemporary Israeli identity and Zionism’s attitude towards Arab people.

For the full program visit www.limmud-oz.com.au, you’ll be amazed at how much you can experience in the one weekend!

Limmud Fest is an all-ages event and the program has been designed with the whole family in mind. Children aged 4–14 can enjoy supervised activities as part of “Young Limmud”, leaving parents free to attend the main program. The fun activities for kids include arts and crafts, sport and games, cooking, a

music workshop, Jewish meditation, rock climbing and bushwalking, as well as a special Shabbat program.

Other highlights of the weekend include:

- A Saturday night entertainment program lined up with live bands, a bar and a DJ
- Talks on social justice including “Seeking asylum in Israel”, “Save a Child’s heart” and “LGBT community in Israel”
- Arts and creative sessions including “Kosher Theatresports”, “From Hatufim to Homeland” and a “Jewish Songwriting” workshop
- Options for bushwalking, meditation, soccer, dancing, and platonic speed dating where you can converse with and debate your fellow Limmudniks on a range of topics. There will also be a Hebrew café for those who wish to schmooze in Ivrit

Participant registration has now opened for Limmud Fest 2014, to book visit www.limmud-oz.com.au — tickets start from \$120 with a range of accommodation options available including luxury glamping, shared rooms and an authentic camping experience.

Limmud Fest is organised by volunteers with the support of The Shalom Institute.

Dane Stern

Co-Chair, Limmud Fest 2014



Mazel tov to Lara Rutstein on her Bat Mitzvah!

Emanuel School

Hobbies: soccer, ballet, singing, touch football, cooking

Pets: one dog called Riley and one samurai fighting fish called Mr Nibbles

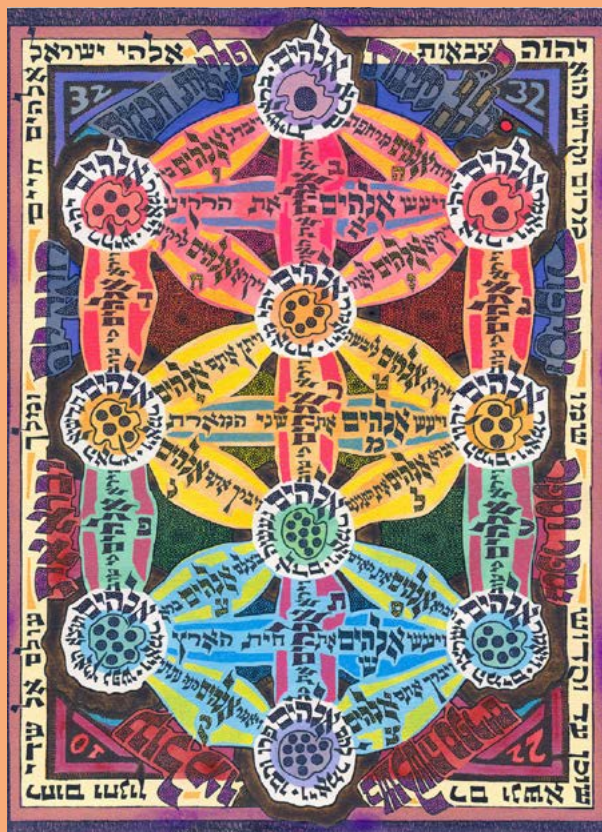
Likes: friends, shopping, movies, dancing, sport

Dislikes: licorice, fake people, animal cruelty

About me: Family, traditions, customs and religion are important to me. At this stage I would like to work with children. I have been a member of Maccabi soccer for seven years. I have been to a few Habo meetings and a camp and tried Netzer too. I have been in a dance company for ten years and have participated in the school bands, choirs, sports teams and SRC. My favourite school subjects are sport and science. I like all types of music.

Social justice: I am giving a portion of my Bat Mitzvah gifts to my chosen charity which is the RSPCA. I believe strongly in protecting all animals, big and small. I really want to adopt a pet, but for now we have a full house.

What will you remember most about your Bat Mitzvah? I will always remember all the hours I spent learning with my tutor Tamar. She has been a great help. I also want to thank Rabbi Kamins for allowing me to ask lots of questions and giving me lots of answers to thing about.



© David Friedman

Land and Spirit — Kabbalah Tour of Israel

4–15 January 2015

This 12-day trip, called “Land and Spirit”, will include touring to spiritual, holy sites in Israel — from the Desert landscape in the south, to Jerusalem and its surrounds, to the Galilee and Tsfat in the north. We will be accompanied by an educational tour guide and will learn with fascinating Kabbalah teachers: Dr. Melila Hellner, Rabbi Ruth Kagan, Avraham Leader and James Jacobson Maisels. The tour will also include sessions with Israeli musicians who specialise in Jewish spiritual music; kabbalah tai chi teacher Gad Levy and kabbalah artist and meditation teacher David Friedman.

Please email orna@emanuel.org.au to express your interest.





Mazel tov to Daniel Rispler on his Bar Mitzvah!

Georges River College

Hobbies: guitar, drums, art

Likes: music, drawing

Dislikes: maths, pop music

About me: I enjoy playing guitar and drums, as well as reading, drawing, sketches and reptiles. My two ideal jobs would be either a musician or an artist.

Social justice: In order to improve the world I would like access to basic education, health, food and water for all developing countries.

What will you remember most about your Bar Mitzvah? My hebrew lessons with Kim and all the effort and dedication put into studying, as well as by my family to make this occasion a special day.



Mazel tov to Noah Klein on his Bar Mitzvah!

Emanuel School

Hobbies: photography, basketball, collecting items, listening to music

Likes: spending time with family, travelling to interesting places

About me: I value compassion, perseverance and kindness. I'd like to be a photographer or a real estate agent some day. My favourite school subjects are history, geography and maths. I like lots of music like pop and rap, and I like Beyoncé.

Social justice: For the last three years I have shaved off all my hair as part of the *World's Greatest Shave*, raising money for the Leukaemia Foundation. I'd like to help with environmental charities when I get older, as well as helping animals through *Voiceless*.

What will you remember most about your Bar Mitzvah? Spending time with my teacher Irit and learning my Haftorah, Maftir and Rishon.



Mazel tov to Eve Lemberg on her Bat Mitzvah!

Emanuel School

Hobbies: dancing, acting, singing

Pets: Bambi (cat), Timmy (fish)

Likes: *Friends* (the show), friends (my friends), family

About me: I love hanging out with friends.

Social justice: I have a charity with my friends called "Big Smiles" and we raise money for Crohn's Disease.

What will you remember most about your Bat Mitzvah? Practice, my tutor Irit, my Rabbi Jacki Ninio, and connecting with a girl who died in the Shoah.



What is Netzer?

Netzer is the synagogue's affiliated youth movement. We are a progressive, Zionist movement that focuses on youth empowerment. This year, we have held fortnightly meetings and events for years 3–12, as well as a very successful winter camp in July.

In addition to this, Netzer also has a 10-month gap year program in Israel, which provides its participants the opportunity for personal development, peer leadership and a connection with Israel and Judaism. For more information, please email (metaemnswnetzer.org.au) or call Eden on **0448 228 094**.

Some highlights of the year:

- **Chocolate seder** — Netzer chanichim (participants) and their families descended on the Emanuel Synagogue this Pesach for our chocolate seder (just like a normal seder, only chocolatey-er).
- **Machane Fantasia** — July saw 70 chanichim journey with us to the Galston area for our annual winter camp. The weather was cold but the spirits were high!
- **Bondi Beach Meeting** — On the first nice spring day of the year, Netzer headed down to Bondi with our junior movement (years 3–9) and our junior leaders (year 10 and 11) for a picnic and scavenger hunt. Kef Gadol.
- **Senior Rosh Hashannah dinner** — Our senior movement (year 10–12) held an evening of food, friends and fun to welcome 5775.

Coming up:

Machane Adamah V'shamayim (Camp Earth and Sky) — Netzer's annual summer camp will be held from the 5th–13th of January for years 10–12, and from the 20th–25th of January for years 3–9.

Contact the Rosh (head) of camp Eliza McCarroll (juniorecampnswnetzer.org.au) for more information, and read her community letter on page 23.

juniorecampnswnetzer.org.au | 0433 911 951 | www.netzer.org.au



Netzer's



MACHAD EARTH AND SKY

קצנה ונע'P

Syd. Junior

20-25 Jan

Eliza McCarroll

0433 911 951

juniorcampnsw

@netzer.org.au

Year 3-9

Melb. Junior

20-25 Jan

Nathan Companez

0459 335 178

juniorcampvic

@netzer.org.au

Year 3-8

Federal Senior 5-13 Jan

Mitch Parsons - 0437 784 353

federalcamp@netzer.org.au

Year 10-shnat

www.netzer.org.au



Dear Netzer Families,

To briefly introduce myself, my name is Eliza McCarroll, and I am so proud to be the Rosh Machane (Head of Camp) of Netzer Sydney's Summer Junior Camp for January 2015, Machane Adamah v'Shamayim (Camp Earth and Sky).

Today, it is my honour to personally invite you all to join us for the experience of a lifetime, because I strongly believe that all chanichim (participants) should take the opportunity to be a part of something as special as our camps.

I attended my very first camp when I was 13 years old, just prior to beginning Year 9 (or Barak, as we call it in Netzer), and haven't looked back from the moment I stepped onto those campsite grounds. For the better part of the last seven years, Netzer has been the most important aspect of my life.

Because I am a part of Netzer, I have a strong Progressive Jewish, Reform Zionist identity.

Because I am a part of Netzer, I have forged a network of like-minded friends who will be like family for the rest of my life.

Because I am a part of Netzer, I have been able to test my abilities and achieve things I never dreamed possible, like being a Rosh Machane.

Because I am a part of Netzer, I have become the person I was meant to be.

I would love for all children to have the same experience, that same journey of growth, as I did, and truly feel that the sooner this process begins, the better. So why not start now?

We are so fortunate to have a place like Netzer in our community, a home away from home that acts as an anchor for our Progressive identity and being immersed in it for the week, whilst still being a vehicle for self-exploration.

I now encourage you all to allow your children to become, or to continue being, a part of this amazing and unique movement, by registering for either our Senior Camp, happening between the 5th–13th January, 2015, for school years 10–Shnat, or our Junior Camp, which is being held between the 20th–25th January, and is for children in school years 3–9.

I could not be more excited for you to make what I can guarantee will be the best decision you could ever make for your children, and for the phenomenal road to camp ahead.

See you on Machane Adamah v'Shamayim!

L'Shalom,

Eliza McCarroll

Rosh Machane (Head of Camp) for Netzer Sydney Junior Camp, January 2015



Dear friends,

By the time you read this letter, we will probably be in some remote beach in South East Asia, resting from what I believe were the most energetic and engaging High Holiday services we have had together. As you've probably heard several times, Yelena and I got

engaged several months ago and we decided to continue our journey together in the United States, closer to family, where we "start getting married" in January (the actual Chuppah will be in Argentina in October 2015). But as you can imagine, such life-decisions are never easy to make. Even though our future together in New York is promisingly sweet, when we look back at the beautiful 3 years we spent with you, it's with a deep and heavy heart that we realize all that we're leaving behind. You have had a huge impact on us, sharing life-changing experiences and opening your hearts to us. This is probably why the good-bye at the farewell event you organized for me wasn't enough. We needed one more Shabbat Live, and one more Yamim Noraim, and one more hug, and one more... But now that it's happening "for real", I wanted to sit down and write a few lines to express my feelings as Yelena and I prepare for our next step.

As I recall my dreams and expectations when I first arrived at Emanuel Synagogue, I cannot but feel proud when I look around and enjoy the fruit of so much team effort put in with the Rabbis, congregants and staff.

The Shabbat Live service has become a consolidated trademark of our community, bringing joy and spirituality to hundreds of people every Friday night. And now, you should have all received an unprecedented 18-song CD with the entire Friday night Shabbat service recorded with all 10 Shabbat Live musicians. As you know, I believe strongly in communal engagement and communal singing. I cannot stress enough how much more beautiful the singing of a group is than the singing of an individual. Hopefully, the Shabbat Live recording will serve as a legacy towards that goal, enabling everyone to get familiarised with the tunes and words of our prayers in order to sing confidently during services.

Thanks to the greatly successful experience early last year when we brought Argentinean music director Matias Chapiro for three weeks, we were able to create and consolidate our Teen Band ("Kolot haRuach", voices of the wind) which leads part of our Friday night services once a month, sings in the High Holydays, and even

performs in community events such as *Shir Madness*. We were also lucky to have found great musicians and singers that helped us establish our very own Klezmer Band, which also plays for Shabbat services and performs at community events. These two beautiful projects represent exactly what I believe is one of the best ways of engaging and uniting community.

A huge project I worked on for the past two years has been recording every Torah portion slowly and clearly for our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students to use as preparation material for their big day. Every first Aliyah (reading), every Maftir and every Haftarah is now available to members of Emanuel Synagogue for the years to come. Hurray!

Leading the Masorti minyan on Thursdays, Shabbatot and Yamim Noraim has been one of the highlights of my experience at Emanuel. Being able to share the davening with a group of people that is so committed and that has such an honest love for our tradition, has been a true honour. I will miss the codes we created for Musaf, the Sephardic "Salvador" Ein keElokenu, the creative Adon Olam tunes, and the incredible Torah reading of our Baalei Kriah. I will also miss teaching many of you how to daven the service and how to read Torah. But more than anything else, I will forever miss the voices that crack the ceiling with their energy and togetherness during the Yamim Noraim — especially this last one. I remember how quiet the services were my first year with you over four years ago. Now that we all know the melodies and know each other, we have created a sacred code. The more tired and hungry we are, the more powerful the voices come out. Thank you wholeheartedly for opening your hearts and throats to create such an overwhelming experience.

And as if this weren't enough to look back and feel equally proud and nostalgic, it's really hard to contain my tears when I think of Shomer Achi. The most authentic reflection of what I believe is a community with a bright future, Shomer Achi ("My Brother's Guardian") was created thanks to the initiative of young teenagers from the community who, when I approached them to ask how they would like to contribute to Emanuel, answered almost univocally "through social justice". Today, Shomer Achi became a strong youth group committed to "Tikkun Olam", (repairing the world) that gathers every week in the synagogue to plan and implement social justice activities. In only two and a half years since its inception, the kids have helped and worked with the indigenous community, refugees, the elderly, adults with mental disabilities, kids with special needs, kids with cancer, hungry families, aborigine groups, Israeli veterans and victims of terrorism, asylum seekers and even schools and communities in need in Thailand. The kids have organized fundraisers, run sports activities,

run educational activities, cooked and helped cook, painted classrooms and even travelled to Thailand to teach English at a high school and to work in the fields in the Elephant Village. As I write these lines, Shomer Achi has grown so much that a second group has been up and running for several months now. I am confident that through the leadership of Talia Hoffman (coordinator of the Sunday group) and Becky Goldberg (coordinator of the Thursday group), Shomer Achi's name will continue to make our world a better place and our community very proud.

But these achievements, as meaningful as they might be, are not enough to explain why Emanuel became such an important part of my life. What has shaped me as a person and has helped me grow in so many ways are the relationships we've built together. You have opened your houses and families to Yelena and me, inviting us to Shabbat dinners and personal events. You have shared your ideas and values with me as we challenged each other intellectually. You have accepted me as your Shaliach Tzibbur, congregational leader in prayer, and you have allowed me to lead you towards – hopefully – a more passionate and participative connection to Judaism through music, song and social justice. You have asked me to sing at your wedding or your son/daughter's Bar/t Mitzvah. You have volunteered in the projects I created and you have given me advice in order to improve. You have sung with me and cried with me. But above all, while our actual families were living thousands of kilometers away, over these past three years, you have been family to us.

Unfortunately there is not enough space in this article to write the names of all the people I would like to thank, but through the following names, I promise you are all represented:

Thank you Laurence Eidelman and Rodney Brender (and through you, all the elected board members I had the honour of working with) for trusting me enough to bring me all the way from Argentina and for making me feel comfortable from the day I arrived.

Thank you Rabbi Jacobson for listening to the crazy idea I had when we met in Israel and I asked you if it wouldn't be "really cool" if you invited me to Sydney to sing together. I admit I didn't expect you to actually raise the idea with Rabbi Kamins. But you did, I and I am forever thankful. I'm also happy to know we will be living very close to each other and continuing our friendship as we share kosher hot dogs at the Yankees stadium!

Thank you Rabbi Ninio for always being present for me, and for sharing the Shabbat Live project together. You have inspired me with the humility and integrity of your leadership and you have always found time to listen to me when I needed someone to talk to. I feel blessed to have created such a special relationship together.

And as I said at my farewell last June, the hardest goodbye is with my senior Rav: Thank you Rabbi Kamins for...for just everything. Coming to Australia was a crazy idea. But it all started to make sense the moment we shared our first walks and davening experiences together the very first time you brought me to Emanuel Synagogue. I said to Yelena, "if I can spend a few years working with this giant, I will be an "ish ashir", a fortunate man". And that's how I feel right now. You are a man of principles, vision, morale and incredible patience. You are an example, through your extremely hard work, of leadership and humility. Despite our ideological differences on Israel, you have always given me the space to teach and express my views, challenging each other with respect and mutual acceptance. You became a friend and a source of inspiration for me not only through your teachings, but also in your daily acts. You and Caz have been there for us at every stage, and the best memories of my time in Australia have your presence in all of them. You I wish to thank, above everything else, for helping become a better Jew and a better person.

Thank you, my Emanuel Community, for all you've done for me and for us these beautiful years. We will hold you in our hearts forever, and we look forward to many more encounters, wherever they might be.

Hasta siempre!
Martin Yafe

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Email info@emanuelpreschool.com.au
Postal 7 Ocean Street Woollahra NSW 2025

WHAT'S ON

Emanuel Synagogue aims to offer a diverse and stimulating spectrum of events. For your convenience, we have also selected a few of the highlights across the next three months and presented them briefly below. You can find more details about our upcoming events on our website www.emanuel.org.au and in our weekly *Shabbat E-bulletin*.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 9 November

The Culture of Israel through Film presented by Dr Shahar Burla — 4:00pm

Our popular film festival concludes with “Schwartz Dynasty”. More details and online bookings at tinyurl.com/israelfilms. \$15 (non-members) / \$12 (members) / \$10 (students) / \$5 (Netzer).

Friday 7 November

Kabbalat Shabbat with Music & Meditation — 7:15pm

Watch the full moon rise over the ocean and bring in Shabbat with with awesome musicians and a picnic dinner (BYO). A Neshama Life event for everyone. Please contact Orna to register: orna@emanuel.org.au

Saturday 8 November

Lunch ‘n’ Learn: with Sandy Hollis — 12:00–2:00pm “Jewish Humour”

Nourishment for mind, body and soul. Enjoy lunch, meet friends and laugh together. Immediately following Shabbat Services.

Friday 14 November

Harbourview Dinner for Young Adults — 7:15pm

Harbourview is a young adults group for people in their 20s and early 30s that holds regular social events and learning sessions. For more information see the website: www.harbourviewsydney.org or contact Molly Fields at info@harbourviewsydney.org

Saturday 15 November

Progressive Shabbat service with guest rabbi, WUPJ president Rabbi Frelander

Rabbi Daniel Frelander, newly-appointed president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, joins us at our Progressive Shabbat service.

Sunday 16 November

Mitzvah Day — 10:00am–12:30pm

On Mitzvah Day we can all make a positive difference to the world in which we live by taking action, together. People can make a difference by giving their most valuable possession — their time. Join us packing gifts of toiletries and toys for women and children seeking refuge from domestic violence. We are already taking donations at the synagogue.

Tuesday 18 November

Emanuel Playreading Club

Come along for a ‘cold read’ of *Little Murders*: a 1967 black comedy by Pulitzer prize-winning cartoonist Jules Feiffer. No experience necessary! Contact cazlederman@bigpond.com / geoff@sirmai.com.au) to express interest...or just come along.

Friday 21 November

Communal Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Segal — 7:15pm

Join us for a delicious Shabbat meal – the last for 2014 – with special guest speaker, Melitz Centre for Zionist Jewish Education President, Rabbi Benjamin Segal speaking on “The Essence of Shabbat”. Booking now at www.emanuel.org.au or call the office on 9389 6444.

Saturday 22 November

Lunch ‘n’ Learn: with Rabbi Segal — 12:00–2:00pm “The story of King David through the Psalms”

Nourishment for mind, body and soul. Enjoy lunch, meet friends and delve into Torah. Immediately following Shabbat Services.

Sunday 23 November

Rosh Chodesh Women’s Group — 8:00pm

We welcome in the new month of Kislev.

DECEMBER**Thursday 18 December****Chanukah on the Beach — 5:30pm**

Celebrate Chanukah with us at Camp Cove. Activities and games, BYO picnic. All welcome!

Sunday 23 November**Rosh Chodesh Women's Group — 8:00pm**

We welcome in the new month of Kislev.

JANUARY**4–15 January****Land and Spirit — Kabbalah Tour of Israel**

This 12-day trip, called “Land and Spirit”, will include touring to spiritual, holy sites in Israel — from the Desert landscape in the south, to Jerusalem and its surrounds, to the Galilee and Tsfat in the north. We will be accompanied by an educational tour guide and will learn with fascinating Kabbalah teachers: Dr. Melila Hellner, Rabbi Ruth Kagan, Avraham Leader and James Jacobson Maisels. The tour will also include sessions with Israeli musicians who specialise in Jewish spiritual music; kabbalah tai chi teacher Gad Levy and kabbalah artist and meditation teacher David Friedman.

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

Further details on these sessions will be published in our weekly bulletin closer to the time. **Throughout November, our education series will run on Thursday evenings in the Board Room from 7:30–9:30pm.**

This program will be on hold through December and January, resuming on Tuesdays in February 2015.

Tuesdays in November**Contributors to 20th Century Jewish Thinking — with Dr. Rabbi Jeffrey Cohen**

The lives & contributions to the Jewish Community of:

- (1) Menachem Mendel Schneerson
- (2) Eliezer Berkovits
- (3) Zalman Schachter
- (4) J David Bleich



A NEW COURSE

KABBALAH AT MELTON

With Rabbi Dr Orna Triguboff

WEDNESDAYS 25 FEB - 29 APRIL

11AM - 12:30PM

EMANUEL SYNAGOGUE

ENQUIRIES: ORNA@EMANUEL.ORG.AU

NESHAMA LIFE PRESENTS

Land & Spirit

KABBALAH TOUR OF ISRAEL

4-15 January 2015

www.neshamalife.org



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All welcome – beginners and experienced meditators

Thursday mornings
8.00 – 9.00 am
during school terms

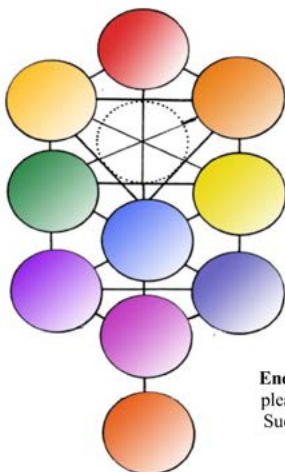
Emanuel Synagogue,
Neuweg Building

Come to stillness using the
Tree of Life

A Jewish framework to
develop awareness, loving
kindness, inner strength,
balance, harmony

Open to inner peace,
clarity, joy

Draw on weekly Torah
parsha for spiritual
development



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CHANUKAH

E-COURSE

16-24 DECEMBER

A DAILY INSPIRATIONAL EMAIL

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עמנואל
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Our organisation
is proudly working with

The Shabbat Project

KEEPING IT TOGETHER

This year's Shabbat Project was celebrated in more than 30 countries, and 340 cities, including right here in Sydney. Emanuel Synagogue took part in, and hosted, some really amazing events including:

- A joint learning session with Emanuel School (Discovering the Magic of Shabbat)
- Communal Challah Bake (with close on 2,500 attendees)
- More than 200 families hosting guests, family and friends for Shabbat dinner on Friday

We look forward to "keeping it together" next year, and enjoying many more great Shabbat events.



TZEDAKAH

The Torah begins and ends with acts of caring loving-kindness

Mr Reuben Aaron OBE &
Mrs Cornelia Aaron
Ms Lissy Abrahams & Mr Roger Cohen
Mr Peter Adler
Mr Rafael & Mrs Rachel Adler
Harry Aizenberg
Ms Marina Albert
Ms Helena Ameisen
Mr Michael & Mrs Melanie America
Mr Howard & Mrs Silvia Amoils
Mr Howard Amoils
Mr Albert-Maurice &
Mrs Suzanne Amzallag
Mr Ben Zucker &
Mrs Gina Andrews-Zucker
Mr Emery & Mrs Anne Angles
Mr Leo Apterman
Mrs Illeana Archer
Ms Mary Aston-Levy
Dr Egon & Mrs Judith Auerbach
Dr Anita Austin
Mrs Bernice Bachmayer
Mr Stephen & Mrs Wendy Baer
Mr Wayne Baffsky
Mrs Yvonne Bahar
Ms Karin Banna
Dr Felix Barda
Mr Joseph Barda
Mrs Loris & Mr Joseph Barrington
Ms Sandra Barrkman
Mr Victor Baskir
Mrs Dorothy Bauer
Ms Katarina Baykitch
Dr Victor Bear AM
Mrs Deborah Beder
Mrs Bernice Belnick
Mrs Ruth Bender
Mr Peter Benjamin
Mr Paul Bennett
Dr Lyria Bennett Moses &
Dr Daniel Moses
Dr Danny Beran
Mrs Edith Berger
Dr Michael & Dr Jane Berger
Mrs Lilian & Dr Ezra Berley
Dr David & Mrs Sandra Berman
Mr Joseph Bern
Dr Joel & Mrs Denyse Bernstein
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Mr Julian & Mrs Rosemary Block
Mr Peter Bloomfield
Mr Mike & Mrs Linda Bloomfield
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Mr Gabriel & Mrs Margot Blumberg
George Bogнар
Mr Anthony & Mrs Lisa Bognar
George Bognar

Mrs Tessa Boucher
Mr Ron Bowen
Ms Judith Brandl
Mr Sidney & Mrs Julie Brandon
Mrs Alicia Brandt-Sarif
Mr Rodney Brender
Mrs Wendy & Dr David Brender
Mr John Brieger
Mr Ian Brodie
Mr David Brokman
Mr Leon & Mrs Emma Bronfentrinker
Ms Lindsay Broughton
Mr Wesley & Mrs Sari Browne OAM
Mr Frank Buyers
Henry Caganoff
Miss I. Cahn
Ms Lorraine Camden
Dr David & Mrs Nadya Caminer
Mr Barry & Mrs Randi Cantor
Ms Susan Carleton
Dr Alan Cass & Dr Lauren Arnold
Lynette Chaikin
Dr Peter Clyne & Ms Fatima Rozenblit
Rabbi Dr Jeffrey Cohen
Mrs Wendy Cohen
Nathan Compton
Ms Olga Constantinova
Ms Helen Coolican
Mr Ronald Coppel AM &
Mrs Valerie Coppel
Mr. Nigel Corne
Mrs Renate Cowan
Mr Andrew & Mrs Carolyn Crawford
Mr Max Crawford
Mr Thomas Cromer
Mr Henry Cuba
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Mrs Daphne Doctor
Mr David & Mrs Suzette Doctor
Mr Isaac Douek
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Mrs Christa Drummond
Mr David Duchon
Mrs Claire Dukes
Dr Richard & Mrs Ellen Dunn
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Ms Sarah Encel
Mr Michael & Mrs Helen Engel
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Oded Etzioni
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Ms Clara-Donna Ezekiel
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Mrs Sheila Faktor
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Mr Anthony Faust
Mr Edward & Mrs Diane Federman
Mr Alex & Mrs Elizabeth Feher
Mr Vladimir & Mrs Irina Feldman
Mr Steve Felsher
Mrs Zinaida Fettmann
Mr Gary & Mrs Helma Fink
Mr Andrew Shapiro & Ms Hannah Fink
Mrs Giza Fletcher
Mr David Fonteyn & Vinita Deshpande
Mrs Barbara Ford & Mr Charles Simon
Mrs Elizabeth Forer
Mr Jules Forgacs
Mrs Lisa Frank
Mrs Valerie Freeman
Dr Zelman Freeman
Dr Marcelle Freiman
Ms Anna Fried
Mr Ernie Friedlander OAM &
Mrs Lea Charlotte Friedlander
Mr David & Mrs Christine Frish
Dr Miriam Frommer &
Mr Donald Frommer
Mrs Erika Fulop
Mr Joseph Furedi
Mr John & Mrs Judy Gal
Mr George & Mrs Judith Gelb
Mrs Suzanne Gelbard
Mrs Liselotte Gerber
Svetlana German
Mr Philip Klisser & Ms Jennifer Girson
Mrs Dianna Givorshner
Mr J Glajz
Louise Glaser
Mrs Phyllis Glasser
Mrs Cherie Glick
Mrs Dina & Mr Gennadi Gofman
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Mr Adrian & Mrs Belinda Gold
Mr David & Ms Erika Goldbaum
Mr Michael & Mrs Sylvia Golding
Mr David & Mrs Michelle Goldman
Dr Peter & Mrs Milly Goldman
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 Mr Isadore & Mrs Brenda Sher
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 Mr Jeff Shmulburd
 Mrs Faina Shmulburd
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 Ms Tereza Singer
 Mrs Ofira Singer
 Ms Deborah Singerman
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 Ms Maria Skarba
 Mrs Eva & Mr Stephen Skimin
 Ms Lilly Skurnik
 Mr Alan & Mrs Anne Slade
 Mrs Dora & Mr Jacob Slomovits
 Mrs Rena Small
 Mr Harry & Mrs Yvonne Snow
 Mr Peter Solomon
 Mr David Solomon
 Mr Isaac & Mrs Vanessa Solomon
 Mrs Agnes Spencer
 Mrs Neva & Mr Leo Sperling
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 Mrs Zita Stark
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 Dr Jeffrey Steinweg OAM &
 Mrs Sandra Steinweg
 Mr Richard Hoenig & Ms Sharon Stern
 Mrs Val Stern
 Dr Jeffrey & Mrs Jeanette Streimer
 Ms Jacqueline Stricker-Phelps
 Ms Anna Goulston
 Ms Aimee Suchard
 Ms Gabriella Suchard

Mrs Michele Sultan
 Ms Tessa Surany
 Mrs Hedy Switzer
 Mrs Allene Symonds
 Mrs Renee Symonds
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 Professor Lucy Taksa
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 Dr Victoria Timchenko
 Ms Nora Torok
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 Mr Peter Ulmer
 Dr Michael Urwand
 Ms Marianne Vaidya
 Mrs Ericka Van Aalst
 Mrs Sylvia Vasin
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 Mr Stephen & Mrs Edna Viner
 Mr Alan & Mrs Itta Vorsay
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 Mr Alex & Mrs Hester Walter
 Mrs Helen Warn
 Dr Anthony & Mrs Margot Wasserman
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 Mrs Vanessa Weiner
 Mr Frederick Weisinger
 Mr Robert & Mrs Miriam Weiss
 Mrs Viola Wertheim
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 Mrs Evelyn Whittaker
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 Mr Adam & Ms Judy Wills
 Mrs Robin Wilson
 Mr Uri Windt & Ms Louise Tarrant
 Mr Henry & Mrs Ruth Wirth
 Mr Phillip Wolanski AM &
 Mrs Suzanne Wolanski
 Mr Gerald & Mrs Vivian Wolff
 Mrs Anne Wolfson
 Mr Gordon Woolf &
 Mrs Virginia Baker-Woolf
 Mr Harry Wrublewski &
 Ms Sara Landa-Wrublewski
 Ms Sylvia Wyner
 Ms Gabrielle Wynhausen &
 Mr Aaron Wagner
 Prof Anna Yeatman
 Mrs Lynette Zaccai
 Mr Morris & Mrs Betty Zamel
 Mrs Charlotte Zettel
 Ms Rosanna Zettel
 Dr Dennis & Mrs Jane Zines
 Mrs Anita Zweig
 Dr Ruth Zwi

NEW MEMBERS

To welcome the stranger

Lynnette Zaccai
 Serena & Peter Edstein
 Bettina & Nathan Waller
 Natalie Cromer
 Solal Fitoussi &
 Charlotte-Marie Chatelain
 Shaun Greenblo & Jana Zurawlenko
 Cornelia (Corrie) Aaron
 Janice Perl Schwarz
 Geoff Lang
 Michael Gayst & Monique Van Tulder
 Ariel Spigelman & Karina Johns
 Louise & Rafi Glaser
 Mark & Sarah Fischer
 Lynne Perl
 Ros & Wayne Ihaka
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 Michaela & Steve Herzberg
 Cathie Broughton
 Ellis & Lyn Rosen
 Sofia Shvarts & Henry Cuba
 Michelle Shraibman & Daniel Plumb
 Jacqui Nash
 Paul & Gloria Shillan
 Arbirah Lifschitz & Sonia Redman
 Rosalie Fishman
 Joanna Auerbach
 Gregory & Leora Shapiro
 Daniel Weisz & Nicole Sokol
 Natalie Hersch & Ryan Polivnick
 Thomas & Alison Freund
 Debbie & Tom Kertesz
 Daniel Stern & Georgia Snow
 Norma Gayst
 Claudia Maman
 Leon Sher
 Donald Frommer
 Rebecca Crawford
 Henry Crawford
 Alex Selby
 Lloyd Gayst & Tamara Fettman
 Michael & Nicole Baer
 Lana Krongold & Daniel Faludi
 Barry Joseph
 Hannah Rapaport
 Mark Rapaport
 Jeremy Rosen & Samantha Nahum
 George & Yvonne Ujvary
 Stephanie Ujvary
 Gregory Rose
 Joshua Levitt & Julia Thomas
 Jacheta Schwarzbaum
 Dina Davis
 Peter & Judith Bonta

Dr Marcel Zimmet &
 Mrs Miriam Raphael
 Maya & Leigh Wannan
 Graeme Friedman & Tracey Segal
 Edith Varkonyi
 Peter Klug & family
 Bryony Ross

BABY NAMINGS

To honour the father and mother at the naming of their child

Isaac Everett Banki
 (Yitzhak ben Yehoshua v'Shoshana)
Son to Susan & Joshua Banki

Ezra Solomon Bor
 (Ezra Elazer ben Binyamin v'Aviva)
Son to Alastair Bor & Kerry Shaz

Mae Fox Bloustien
 (Maytal bat David v'Miriam Yael)
*Daughter to David Bloustien &
 Mim Fox*

Sofia Cherrez
 (Ester bat Chana)
*Daughter to Jessica Engel &
 Ivan Cherrez*

Talia Cromerwong
 (Talia bat T'chiah)
*Daughter to Natalie Cromer &
 Patrick Wong*

Belinda Gabriella Czeiger
 (Leiba bat Moshe v Malka)
*Daughter to Robert Czeiger &
 Monika Silver*

Liam Dan Feller
 (Chai Daniel ben Ari v'Michal)
Son to Ari & Michelle Feller

Archer Geredov
 (Aryeh ben Yaakov)
Son to Yan and Angela Geredov

Jacob Nate Marmot
 (Yakov Nachman ben Shimon)
Son to Simon and Micah Marmot

Lilah Rose Simons
 (Chaia bat Raviv v'Yehudit)
*Daughter to Ravi Simons &
 Judith Flaxman*

B'NEI MITZVAH

To honour our B'nei Mitzvah who have "attended the House of Study"

Jesse Claude Caminer
 Mia Jessie Cohen
 John Ferdman
 Ilan Goldbaum
 Samuel Goldbaum
 Hugo Jacoby
 Lily Klipin
 Leo Lipman
 Elliot Kingston Morgan
 Eli Narev
 Blake Nixon
 Teya Magdalena Phillips
 Nicholas Rice
 Daniel Ethan Rispler
 Maya Shaked
 Lilah Shapiro

MARRIAGE

To rejoice with the happy couple

Mr Leonard & Mrs Ecaterina Ervits
 Dr Jason Kaplan &
 Mrs Jessica Sara Kaplan

DECEASED

To comfort the bereaved

Ester Billig
 Markus Birman
 Suzanne Buchman
 Sigmund Hirsch Catzel
 Sala Cohen
 Rosalie Field
 Vladimir Frenkel
 Steven Gabor
 Yvonne Galombik
 Simone Carole Gerber
 Anne Brigitte Gilbert
 Stephen Gilbert
 Vitali Gildine
 Michael Harris
 Fay Isaacs
 Mark Lewis Jacobs
 Odette Tania Lobelson
 Harry Loeb
 Sylvia Maehrischel
 Anatoli Roubinchtein
 Sidney Shiffer
 Irene True
 Barbara Vallender
 David Varkonyi
 Danny Wilhelm

KEEP CALM we've MOVED OFFICE

In preparation for the building phase of the redevelopment,
the Synagogue offices have moved off-site.

We are now located at:
Suite 401a, 59–75 Grafton Street
Bondi Junction, NSW 2022

Tel: 9389 6444

Fax: 9327 8715

Unless otherwise stated, all services and classes will be
held at the Synagogue (7 Ocean Street, Woollahra).

SERVICES

Monday & Thursday:

6:45am

Morning Minyan — Neuweg

Friday:

6:15pm Erev Shabbat Services

Masorti — Neuweg

Progressive — Main Sanctuary

Saturday:

9:00am Conservative Shabbat
Service — Neuweg

10:00am Progressive Shabbat
Service — Main Sanctuary

10:00am Jewish Renewal
Shabbat Services — see
website for details.

DIRECTORY

7 Ocean Street
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Rabbis

Jeffrey B Kamins

Jacqueline Ninio

Orna Triguboff

General Manager

Sam Zwarenstein



Find us on
Facebook

This Tell was packed by volunteers.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication.

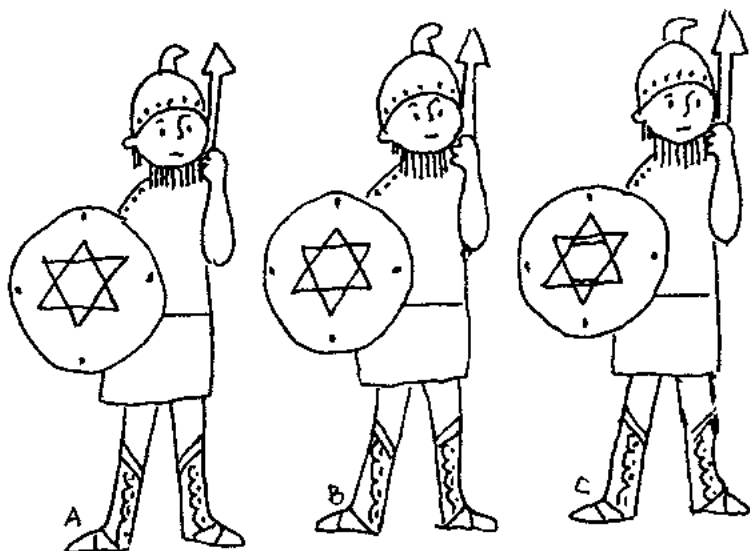
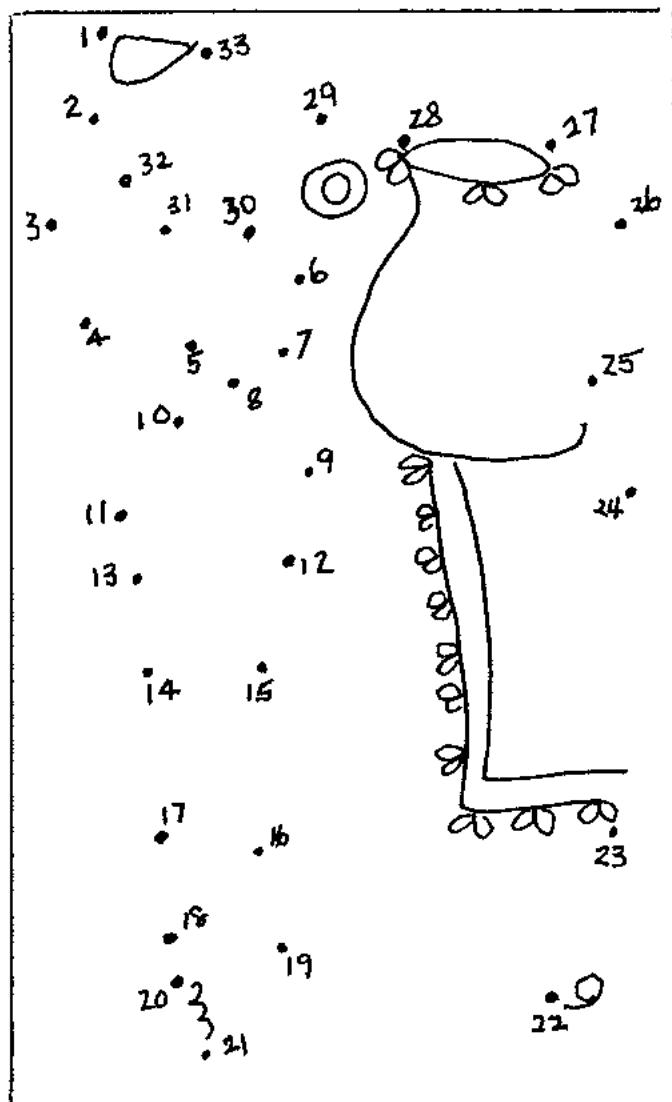
Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer in the future.

Chanukah for Kids

Can you find the 10 latkes (🥞) that flew out of the window?

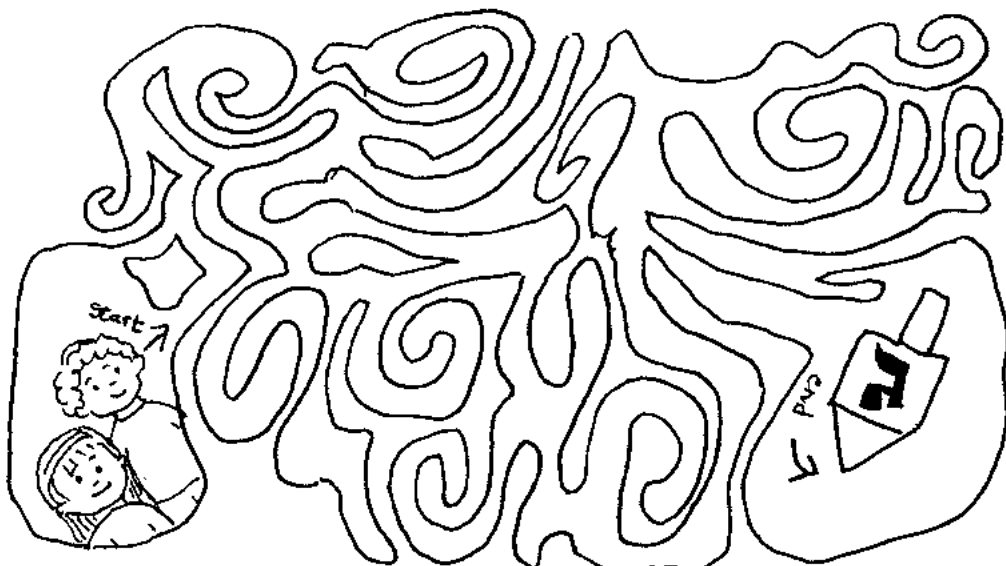


Connect the dots to see what the Syrians used against the brave Maccabees.



2 HIS SHIELD IS DIFFERENT

The children have lost their dreidel. Can you find it?



Anne Wolfson



Sunday 16th November 2014

Doing good deeds to meet community needs
אם אין אני לי מי לי וכשאני לעצמי מה אני ואם לא עכשיו אימתי

DONATE NOW

Collection baskets are located in the foyer of the Main Sanctuary

- toothbrushes & toothpaste
- hand lotion
- shampoo & conditioner
- soap
- lip gloss
- small notebooks
- textas, pens & pencils
- small soft toys (up to 100cm)

VOLUNTEER

10:00am–12:30pm, Sunday 16th November

Help us pack gift bags for women and children
seeking shelter from domestic abuse in women's refuges.

CHANUKAH ON THE BEACH

Camp Cove • Thursday 18 December from 5:30pm



עמנואל
emanuel synagogue
creating community • celebrating diversity