



עמנואל
emanuel synagogue
creating community • celebrating diversity

Rosh Hashanah newsletter

September 2011

Tishrei 5772

Shana Tova
שנה טובה



Message from the President...

Inside of this newsletter we reproduce our vision and missions. Arguably the key activity of our synagogue is “transformative learning”. The aim of our educators, in and outside of services, is “to inspire learners of all ages to live with greater reflection and awareness of matters of real significance to them and their and relationships”.

In the city at present there are 100 banners, each beginning “What if” and then in 10 words or less expressing a hope or inquiry. Some of them cause you to reflect about matters of significance, others just cause you to smile. “What if we thought of others for a change?” “What if we came by boat?” “What if we weren’t at the top of the food chain?” “What if we all lived in a refugee camp for a week?” “What if you smiled at the person walking towards you right now?” These are all inquiries where our rabbis, synagogue community and religion have something to offer. Often that involves putting ourselves in the position of the less fortunate and seeing what we can do to help. That is the part of our mission encapsulated in the concept of Tikkun Olam – helping to heal the world.

And in the second, wistful, category, I liked “What if I returned their calls?” “What if I had have kissed him that night” and “What if your current haircut becomes the mullet of the future?”.

We hope that everyone is inspired this year by our services and programmes, by the words of our rabbis and our texts, to reflect on matters of significance to them and their relationships, and that everyone feels welcomed and included in our community.

Shana Tova.

Belinda Levy



As we begin a new year and we look back at the past we recognise that there have been a number of changes in our synagogue. As part of a restructure, the difficult decision was made to make the position of Director of Membership Services, held by Belinda Levy, redundant. For 18 years Belinda has worked in our community, giving her heart and boundless compassion and care to our congregation. She was devoted to her job and to all the people with whom she interacted. We were blessed to have her presence and her gifts. She was a valued and loved employee for all this time and will be greatly missed by all of us at Emanuel.

At the AGM in May, our incoming president, Rodney Brender, explained in detail the extensive, exhaustive and consultative process by which the Board came to the difficult decision to make redundant the position of Membership Services Director. Rabbi Kamins and Rodney praised Belinda's work and the lengthy and important contribution she had made to our organization and its members.

Sam Zwarenstein



General Manager

Sam Zwarenstein, was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, and moved to Sydney in January 2006 with his wife and 2 children.

He has been involved with Jewish communities and organisations for 22 years, having grown up in Netzer South Africa and serving as a member of the national leadership team for 4 years, participating in the Machon (Shnat) programme in 1989, and serving in numerous capacities including Shaliach Tzibur in Shalom Independent Congregation from 1996-2005, and National Vice Chair of the South African Zionist Federation from 1994-1998 and lay leader at Emanuel Synagogue since 2007. Sam has 16 years experience in Retail and Operations

management, in telecommunications networks in South Africa, Israel, and Australia. In his few months as general manager Sam has endeared himself to staff and members alike with his professionalism, efficiency, warmth and generosity of spirit.

Martin Yafe



Shaliach Tzibbur and Youth Director

After months of waiting for his visa, Martin Yafe has arrived as our new shaliach tzibbur (service leader) and youth director. Many of you will remember as the inspiring singer for the Masorti service last Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Martin was born in Cordoba, Argentina, 29 years ago. Son of a prominent conservative rabbi, he was exposed to a variety of communitarian positions and experiences. Martin spent over 10 years working in the Jewish informal education area leading different youth departments as well as serving as shaliach tzibbur for synagogues in Argentina, the United States and here with us at Emanuel Synagogue the past two years. Martin also worked many years for the communitarian security office in Buenos Aires and, lastly, he was very much involved in Israel advocacy in Argentina.

In relation to his studies, Martin received his bachelor's degree in International Relations with a minor in Law in Argentina and his Masters in Government with specialization in Counter-Terrorism and Homeland Security at IDC - Herzliya in Israel. In addition, he studied for several years at the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary taking courses in Jewish and cantorial studies.

We are thrilled to have Martin, a warm and generous man with a beautiful voice and engaging spirit in our community; please extend him your personal greeting at services.

Katie Marks



Katie Marks (nee Gluckman), our director of Marketing has married Sam Marks and moved to Melbourne. In her two years with us Katie did great work to provide a new look for Emanuel Synagogue and enhance our communications with member and the broader community.

We wish Katie and Sam mazal tov. Soon we will announce our new part time Communication Coordinator.

Elizabeth Elijah



Elizabeth has joined our staff as our new receptionist. Please extend her every courtesy and a warm Emanuel welcome.

Over the past year, the staff and board have been engaged in a comprehensive review of our synagogue --- its vision, missions, values and objectives. In conjunction with the outcomes of our Listening Campaign and Survey, we are now preparing a plan for implementing and realising our dreams for the future of our community. These are our Vision and Missions.

Our Vision

Emanuel Synagogue is a dynamic, welcoming congregation creating community and celebrating diversity. We are a growing and leading religious community, living 'our shared values' based on Torah and Jewish tradition. We provide a spiritual home for transformative learning, inspiring prayer and communal gatherings where people are included, embraced and valued. We maintain a deep connection with Israel and world Jewry. We are mindful of our obligation to sustain the environment and heal the world.

Our Mission

Transformative Learning

To inspire learners of all ages to live with greater reflection and awareness of matters of real significance to them and their relationships. Through a variety of educational experiences and programmes we will develop the connections between text, experience and Jewish values and build links between synagogue, home and community.

Inspiring Prayer

To provide Jewish spiritual experiences which resonate intellectually and emotionally with our community through Progressive, Masorti and Renewal religious services and distinctive rituals marking our journey through life.

Communal Gathering

To create a sense of belonging and connection through cultural enrichment, social engagement and sharing the Jewish experience.

Israel and World Jewry

To demonstrate leadership in, and encourage awareness of local, national and international Jewish affairs. To connect members with Israel, and facilitate engagement and learning about our people, heritage and land.

Sustaining the Environment and Healing the World

To act responsibly and ethically. To alleviate the consequences of poverty, disadvantage and injustice. To address social needs. To reduce the suffering of animals. To promote environmental sustainability.

Upcoming Events

SUKKOT

Join us to decorate our Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Sukkah on Wednesday **October 12th at 5:30** followed by a children's service. The **adult service begins at 6:30pm**. Take a look at our website for the many Sukkot activities and services during the week.

SIMCHAT TORAH

At Simchat Torah we will honour our Chatan Torah, Shimon Magil and our Kallat Bereishit, Anat Baruch.

Shimon Magil, after many years of service at Jewish Care and the Burger Centre, joined our congregation as Director of Pastoral Care. He has given so much of his love, care and compassion to the members of the Jewish community. He is a regular attendee at our daily and Shabbat services and a dedicated and special part of our Emanuel family.

Anat Baruch is our incredible community shlichah who has, in her two years with our congregation, inspired us with her dynamic teaching, her creative programming, boundless energy and loving presence, guiding Netzer and giving generously to our congregation in so many beautiful ways.

Join us and Frankie and the Next Best Thing Band as we celebrate Simchat Torah, dance with the Torah and rejoice in this important festival. **Thursday 20th October at 6:30 pm**. Our celebration will continue the next morning **21 October with services beginning at 9:00am**

EMANUEL SHABBAT DINNER

28th October 6:30pm. Please join in a service bringing together staff and families of Emanuel Synagogue and School, followed by a communal Shabbat dinner. RSVP info@emanuel.org.au

WHITE RIBBON SHABBAT

November 25 is White Ribbon Day - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Please join us for a special Shabbat dinner addressing this crucial issue in our world today.

B'NAI BRITH HUMAN RIGHTS ADDRESS 2011

"Human Rights and the Law of the Land - Australia"
by David Gonski AC

Wednesday 16 November 2011
at 7:00pm
Emanuel Synagogue, Woollahra




Cantor Michael Deutsch Memorial and Tribute Service

Sunday, 13 November 2011

10:30am – 11:30am

Emanuel Synagogue

7 Ocean St, Woollahra, NSW, 2025

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- **Songs by: Fay Sussman, Avigail Herman and the Emanuel Ensemble**
 - **Address from Rabbi Brian Fox**
 - **A video of Cantor Deutsch followed by Morning Tea.**

The passing of Cantor Michael Deutsch OAM marks the end of an era for Emanuel Synagogue and Sydney Jewry. He was the last of the great wave of ministers who arrived just before or after the war to grace the pulpits of Sydney's synagogues, and serve our rapidly changing Jewish population. These men enriched our communities with sophisticated, cosmopolitan sensibilities, and served with dedication and grace in a strange land.

Cantor Michael Deutsch had one of the most outstanding voices in the cantorate, a genius of chazzanut. His passion and vocal range and his ability to embody and articulate the essence of the Jewish experience through his exceptional artistry inspired generations in our community. The power of his voice and subtlety of his cantorial style would often move us to tears. But Michael was more than just a great voice. He had the love and respect of everyone who knew him because he was a mensch in the true sense of the word. He had overcome Nazi murderers and thugs to bring his beautiful voice and loving energy to so many.

Cantor Deutsch was one of the most extraordinary human beings we have known. He was a giant of a man who could be so gentle. Me'ir Naftoli Tzvi ben Elimelech had more Yiddishkeit in his little finger than many greater than he have in their whole bodies. He lived Judaism. He exuded Jewish values. He exemplified what it means to be a Jew. Michael simply loved everyone. His hugs. His big wet kisses. His memory of your face even if he didn't remember your name: all of that was Michael.

We will forever miss Michael, and at the close of this year of mourning for both him and Ruth, who passed away just after Michael, we come together to fondly remember and celebrate Cantor Deutsch's contribution.

Please send any photographs you may have to info@emanuel.org.au for a video display on the day.