



## 45 Amazing Alumni To Celebrate 45 Years Of Exceptional Epstein Education - #45at45

This year, The Epstein School is turning 45 years old. To celebrate this, we are highlighting 45 amazing alumni in honor of 45 years of Exceptional Education at Epstein. Our school has hundreds of wonderful and talented alumni and we love to share their successes!

### 45 at 45 - The Countdown Continues!

Throughout this year, we are recognizing 5 alumni via email, until we reach a total of 45 alumni. **View previously highlighted alumni:** [#1-5](#) [#6-10](#) [#11-15](#) [#16-20](#)

#### #21

**David Szikman (Class of 1986)** - David is the owner/operator of [Sandy Springs Music](#), established in 2004. He was born in Montreal and at the age of 4, his family moved to Atlanta and enrolled him in Kindergarten at The Epstein School the following fall. David has been in numerous bands and performed as a solo artist in Arizona, Alabama, Colorado, and Atlanta. He has been lucky enough to be at the right place at the right time; his band had the opportunity to open one day at the Aspen Jazz Festival in 1998 and they were followed by Taj Mahal, Keb Mo, and Crosby, Stills & Nash.

After spending a few years in Aspen, David moved back to Atlanta and shortly after, opened his own music teaching studio, Sandy Springs Music. Since then, he has been dedicated to not only providing the best music lessons, instrument rentals and retail possible, but also to bringing the Sandy Springs music community together. Since he was a student at Epstein, giving back to the community has always been important to him. That is one of the reasons, he and his company, Sandy Springs Music, have partnered with and donated their time and skills to various charity groups and foundations over the years, such as Ian's Friends Foundation and the Sandy Springs Education Force to try and help raise money and awareness with their benefit concerts. It is with tremendous pride that David has been able to establish SSM as a staple in the Sandy Springs community; after 15 years and thousands of lessons taught, there's no slowing them down as they begin their 15th year with a newly-designed studio, rock band room, recording capabilities, and more! And as life



comes full-circle, David has also chosen The Epstein School for his own child, Layla, who is currently in 3rd grade!

## #22

**Paula A. Freedman, Psy.D. (Class of 2002)** - Paula is currently a licensed Clinical Psychologist at Interaction Dynamics in Chicago, Illinois and has written a book entitled, [\*The Addiction Recovery Workbook - Powerful Skills For Preventing Relapse Every Day\*](#). Dr. Freedman specializes in addictive, anxiety and eating disorders; the book she has written is a self-help style resource, using current research and evidence-based tools to decrease the likelihood for relapse, and was inspired by her work helping individuals recover. Although it is written for those recovering from substance use disorders, the information and skills are widely applicable to struggles with eating disorders and behavioral addictions and self-harm.



As long as she can remember, even when she was a little girl attending The Epstein School, she wanted to be an author. She proudly and boldly announced her desire to be an author to her 2nd grade class and her favorite teacher, **Mrs. Harriet Litzsky**, who always complimented her on her writing and reading skills. Paula stated that the quality of her Epstein education foundation was excellent and helped set her up for success. Dr. Freedman is grateful for the Hebrew education she received and is confident that learning another language at an early age enhanced her language skills and verbal processing. As an adult, she also appreciates her Jewish education and the values that were instilled; it has given her a cultural identity and sense of belonging. Paula is currently married to Jeremy Diamond; they met at B'nai Brith Camp as teenagers. In 2010, she completed her bachelor's degree in communications and sociology at American University in Washington, DC. She then attended graduate school at Adler University in Chicago, where she completed her doctorate in clinical psychology in 2015.

## #23

**Judah Kerbel (Class of 2005)** is finishing rabbinical school at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, affiliated with Yeshiva University. This year, he is also a Beit Midrash Fellow at SAR High School in Riverdale in New York, where he teaches Tanakh (Bible) and Talmud with small groups of students throughout the day. After graduating from Epstein, Judah attended The Weber School and spent a year on Nativ in Israel; during those years, he was heavily involved in USY.

He studied Jewish studies and psychology at the University of Maryland, where he held leadership positions in the Orthodox community and the Student Government Association. His majors and leadership opportunities ultimately influenced him to pursue a career in the rabbinate, to be engaged with the intellectual, pastoral, and leadership elements that make a career in the rabbinate so meaningful. Following college, Judah studied at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Alon Shevut, Israel, before enrolling in YU. In addition to rabbinic studies, Judah earned a master's degree in



Medieval Jewish History and completed advanced coursework in mental health counseling in a program oriented towards aspiring rabbis. During his years in rabbinical school, Judah participated in fellowships through AIPAC, UJA-Federation of New York, the Center for Modern Torah Leadership, and Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics. Judah credits The Epstein School with imparting a love of Judaism and Israel that remains with him to this day and impacted his decision to become a rabbi, as well as rigorous secular and Judaic studies that gave him the tools to do so. Judah and his wife Eliana, a 5th grade teacher at Yeshivat He'Atid in Teaneck, New Jersey, live in Manhattan.

## #24

**JoJo Meyers (Class of 2009)** - After graduating Epstein, JoJo attended The Weber School and graduated in 2013. Immediately following high school, he made Aliyah and shortly after, enlisted in the Israeli Air Force Flight (IAF) Academy. Two of his passions drove and motivated him to make that decision: He has always been fascinated by aviation and has always loved and believed strongly in the protection of Israel. JoJo is currently a Lieutenant in the IAF and serves as a drone pilot and mission commander in the "First Zik Squadron" at Palmachim Airbase. The drone division is very interesting to him, but it has its own set of challenges and dilemmas. On a regular basis, they perform missions in highly populated areas and often have to make very consequential decisions that can greatly affect the outcome on the ground.



JoJo is also an officer in the Gaza Branch of the Air Force Planning Directorate. He lives in Tel Aviv and plans to begin university studies in the fields of psychology and economics soon. JoJo notes that Epstein played a big role in cultivating his love for the State of Israel and that his favorite memory from his time spent here is the 8th grade trip to Israel. In his time off, he enjoys reading, cooking, and traveling.

## #25

**Ariel Arbiv (Class of 2015)** - Ariel is a senior at The Weber School and will be graduating this May. Throughout Ariel's four years at Weber, she has been actively involved and held leadership positions in various community, school, and athletic activities. For example, she has been an active Board member of Friendship Circle, responsible for organizing group activities and planning lessons for individuals with special needs. At Weber, Ariel was a mentor through the Peer Leadership program, meeting with her assigned group of freshman to mentor and assist their transition into high school. She was also on the Board of Girl Talk, a mentoring program for the Epstein School and Davis Academy's seventh and eighth grade girls.



After completing years of gymnastics, Epstein's Athletics Director, Jim Battoglia (Coach B), encouraged Ariel to try pole vaulting. She is now the captain of the track and field team, and her pole vaulting accomplishments led her to place in numerous competitions around the country. Ariel is the emerging elite champion of the 2017 New Balance Nationals outdoor and the 2018 New Balance Nationals indoor track and field competitions. She also placed sixth in



2016 and third in 2017 at the USA Track & Field Junior Olympics, and has placed 2nd at the GHSA 1A high school State Meet. Ariel is ranked in the top 20 for US high school girl pole vaulters. She will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall as a member of their track and field team. Ariel hopes to major in biochemistry and later, pursue a career in oral surgery.

## Epstein Alumni Share Their Epstein Experiences!

Today's Epstein students are fortunate to receive the value of a high-quality Epstein education, as did [these fabulous alumni who shared their reflexions on Epstein experiences with us in this video](#). We prepare our students for success in high school, college and beyond. This is [evidenced by the caliber of the colleges our alumni attend](#) and the fact that our recent graduating classes have had a 100% acceptance rate to Atlanta's premier private high schools, public school magnets and honors programs. Many enter high school with advanced standing in mathematics and foreign language as well as eligibility for honors classes. Epstein graduates are academic lauded by high school administrators and faculty as academic stars, peer leaders and successful student athletes.



## Do You Have An Exciting Story/Accomplishment To Share?

**We Want To Hear From You!** We are very proud of our alumni and enjoy sharing alumni success stories with our community. If you have any personal news (marriage, baby, engagement etc) or a story you would like to share, please let us know and [update your information](#). Or, perhaps you or an alumnus you know is deserving of being nominated for the Alumni Hall of Fame or Alumni Spotlight. If so, please fill out the appropriate nomination form ([Alumni Hall of Fame](#)) and send to Alumni Relations Coordinator [Marni Bekerman](#) or 404-250-5649. And, don't forget to join our [alumni association on Facebook](#).

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