

## The Graduate Program 2010

Jews and Christians: From Conflict to Coexistence

Religion and Society

Modern Genocides: The Holocaust to Darfur

The Five Megillot: The Human Face of Scripture

A vanished world: A journey to shtetl through Yiddish song

Judaism and Science : in a parallel universe?

Reading Genesis :a Literary Approach

The Israeli Diaspora

Heroes and Harlots: Bible stories and Rabbinic creativity

The Holocaust through diaries and memoirs: FMAMS scholars program

City, Desert, Periphery: Compass Points in Israeli and Palestinian Literature

Tehillim : The Book of Psalms

Creation to Nation: Metamorphosis Narratives of Bereshit -Genesis

Zionism: Past , Present and Future

Biblical morality

Islam : An Introduction

2010 GRADUATE PROGRAM available to Graduates of the Florence Melton Adult Mini School  
**MONDAY DAY CLASS**

**Term One** \_\_\_\_\_ Feb 15, 22 March 1, 15, 22 no classes April, May 3,10,17

1. Paul Forgasz: Jews and Christians: From Conflict to Coexistence @ *JMA* MD1/PF
2. Rabbi Fred Morgan: The Five Megillot :The Human Face of Scripture MD1/FM

**Term Two** \_\_\_\_\_ May 24, 31 June 7, 21 28 July 5, 12, 26

1. Yvonne Fein: Heroes and Harlots: Bible Stories and rabbinic creativity MD2/YF
2. Paul Forgasz : Reading Genesis MD2/PF
3. Keren Rubinstein : City, Desert, Periphery: Compass Points in Israeli and Palestinian Literature MD2/KR

**Term Three** \_\_\_\_\_ August 2, 9,16, 23, 30 September 6,13,20

1. Paul Forgasz: Biblical Morality MD3/PF
2. Jan Epstein: Jewish Heroes and Schlemiels MD3/JE @*JMA*

**Term Four** \_\_\_\_\_ October 4,11,18, 25 November 8,15, 22, 29

1. Sue Hampel :The Holocaust to Darfur- Modern Genocides @ *JMA* MD4/SH
2. Fred Morgan Tehillim:The Book of Psalms MD4/FM

**TUESDAY EVENING CLASSES AT MAGID INSTITUTE**

**Term One** \_\_\_\_\_ Feb 16, 23 March 2, 9, 16, 23 April 13, 20

1. Michael Cohen : Religion and Society TE1/MC
2. Ittay Flescher: Israeli Society today through the frame of modern Israeli Films TE1/IF
3. Paul Forgasz : Biblical Morality! TE1/PF

**Term Two** \_\_\_\_\_ April 27 May 4, 11, 25 June 1, 8, 15,22

- 1 Yvonne Fein: Heroes and Harlots: Bible Stories and rabbinic creativity TE2/YF
2. Ronnie Figdor : Judaism and Science :In a parallel universe TE2/RF
3. Paul Forgasz: Jews and Christians: From Conflict to Coexistence TE2/PF

**Term Three** \_\_\_\_\_ July 27 August 3, 10,17, 24 , 31 September 7,14

- 1 .Paul Forgasz: Reading Genesis: A literary approach TE3/PF
- 2 . Rachel Woodlock: Islam An Introduction TE3/RW

**Term Four** \_\_\_\_\_ October 5, 12, 19, 26 November 9, 16, 23, 30

1. Adina Bankier Karp: Creation to Nation: Metamorphosis Narratives of Bereshit TE4/ABK
2. Zvi Civins: Zionism - Past Present and Future TE4/ZC
3. Sue Hampel : Modern Genocides :The Holocaust to Darfur TE4/SH
4. Keren Rubinstein: City, Desert, Periphery: Compass Points in Israeli and Palestinian Literature TE4/KR

Program subject to change.  
Class size 15- 25 students

## Monday DAY at B'nai B'rith or the Jewish Museum

Term One: February 15, 22 March 1, 15, 22 No classes April , May 3,10,17  
1pm-3.15pm

1. Jews and Christians - from Conflict to Coexistence *Paul Forgasz*  
Course Code: MD1/PF @the Jewish Museum of Australia

Today, the nexus between Judaism and Christianity marks a high point in the history of Jewish-Christian relations. The same cannot be said, however, about the relationship between Judaism and Islam. But this has not always been the case. Indeed, it can be argued that during the Middle Ages, the Islamic-Jewish connection bred relatively less violence, persecution and confrontation than relations between Christians and Jews. In this course we will focus primarily on the Jewish experience of Christianity over the ages and we will also consider the legacy of this history in the modern period by reflecting on the post-Holocaust re-evaluation of Christian-Jewish relations.

2. The human face of scripture: The Five *Megillot* *Rabbi Fred Morgan*  
Course Code: MD1/FM

The five *Megillot* are found in the third section of the Hebrew Bible, *Ketuvim* (meaning literally "Scriptures"). They fulfil several functions within the Bible and in Judaism, but one of their most striking features is that they illustrate the human condition through the literary genres of the novella and poetry. They are therefore 'existential' literature, addressing both universal human issues and also issues that are peculiar to the survival and mission of the Jewish people. In this course we shall look at each of the five *megillot* both as literary pieces and as ways of tackling philosophical questions concerning the meaning and end of human life. We shall also consider their liturgical significance within Jewish tradition, considering their relationship to the various sacred seasons of the Jewish year.

## Monday DAY at B'nai B'rith

Term TWO : May 24, 31 June 7, 21, 28 July 5, 12, 26

### **1. Heroes and Harlots: The Stories behind the stories**

*Yvonne Fein*

Course code: MD2/YF

Any thoughtful review of the Hebrew Bible inevitably provokes readers to inquire into the nature of good and evil or, even more provocatively, into the fine line often drawn between the sacred and the profane. Which is which? How do we tell? How do we effectively and meaningfully evaluate the characters in this drama which has captured the imagination of the world since it was first written? In this course students will explore the stories *behind* the stories. Using the tools of interpretation and midrashic investigation, we will evaluate the moral, ethical and legal dilemmas posed by these quite amazing characters in our foundation narrative. Why did Lot sleep with his daughters? Discover the phenomenal love story behind the relationship between Mordechai and Esther.. Delving into the midrashic creativity of the rabbinic mind, this course will take you on a journey to find some of the answers to these most intriguing of questions .A tanach (bible) should be brought to class

### **2. Reading Genesis: A literary approach**

*Paul Forgasz*

Course Code MD3/PF

Bill Moyers, the creator of the ground breaking American public television series on Genesis, writes that the stories in this book speak to us because they are so human. These stories have shaped our views about human frailty, sexuality, parents and children, husbands and wives, sibling rivalry, faith, moral freedom and sin. Through them, we learn about the best and worst of the human condition.

This course will focus on the first 25 chapters of the book of Genesis, examining the various stories about early humanity, as well as the great epic narrative about Abraham's spiritual odyssey. We will be concerned with the narrative framework of the text and how it unfolds as a story, focusing in particular on its underlying themes, language and structure

### **3. City, Desert, Periphery: Compass Points in Israeli and Palestinian Literature**

*Keren Rubinstein*

Course Code MD2/KR

This course takes a closer look at a selection of Israeli and Palestinian works of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, through the lens of place. How is setting used to deliver a particular social and cultural reality? What is the significance of life in the shadow of the big city or the kibbutz, and how have each of these locations transformed in the literary imagination over time? This program will help us map these twin and discover that place is much more than backdrop. Writers examined include Edward Said, Amos Oz, David Grossmann, Etgar Keret, Samir Al Youssef and Sayed Kashua

2010 GRADUATES PROGRAM available to Graduates of the Florence Melton Adult Mini School

MONDAY DAY CLASS 1.00pm-3.15pm

Term Three August 2, 9,16, 23, 30 September 6,13, 20

1. Moses and Woody Allen: Jewish Heroes and Shlemiels **Jan Epstein**  
Course Code MD3/JE

Through the medium of film and literature this course will examine the Jewish people's conflicted relationship with the idea of heroes . So many of our historical figures like King David or Moses ,literary characters like Sholem Alecheim' s Tevye and vivid film characters like Mel Brooks' Maxwell Smart, the Frisco Kid or Woody Allen himself - are all deeply flawed characters. Using a wide range of films and writings, the very idea of "heroes" will be deconstructed as we examine them and the motivations of their creators. This course will also examine the emergence post war of the "new Jew" the Zionist *hero*.

2. Biblical Morality **Paul Forgasz**  
Course Code TE1/PF

Violence, lust, deception, murder, incest and vengeance. These are some of the topics we will explore through a close reading of various narrative and legal texts from the Bible. In doing so, we will gain an insight into the various moral perspectives of the Bible. Indeed, it can often be difficult for modern readers to internalise the moral boundaries and world view of the Bible, and to know whether the author of a particular biblical text is commending or condemning certain behaviours. In this course we will attempt to make sense of some of the more morally problematic texts from the Bible

## Monday DAY at Bnai Brith or Jewish Museum

Term Four: October 5, 12, 19, 26 November 9, 16, 23, 30

1. The Holocaust to Darfur: Modern Genocides *Sue Hampel*  
Course Code MD4/SH 2pm -4.15 pm @ the Jewish Museum

This course explores the Holocaust as a turning point in human history, the causes and effects of modern genocides and examines what is now being done to prevent mass atrocities across the world.

The central aim of the course is to provide a detailed historical understanding of specific incidents of mass killings and genocide in the 20th century, focussing on Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur.

The course will look closely at the United Nations Genocide Convention and its role in the definition and prevention of genocide.

The course will be structured around historical analysis, talks by survivors of genocide (if possible) and films.

2. Tehillim : The Book of Psalms *Fred Morgan*  
Course Code MD4/FM 1.00pm-3.15pm

The Book of Psalms (*Tehillim*) is one of the richest expressions of human gratitude, religious longing and spiritual struggle within the sacred literatures of any of the world's religions. Popular poems and songs of their day, the Psalms record in carefully crafted Hebrew a range of human emotions and understandings of the role of the divine in human lives. In this course we shall examine in depth a small selection of the 150 Psalms, learning how to appreciate them in their own right as sacred literature, and also use them as keys to unlock some of the theological and spiritual mysteries that are hidden within human nature and the human condition. We shall also look at the midrashic approach to the Psalms and consider how the midrashic tradition influences our reading of this literature as Jews. Among the Psalms we shall study are Psalms 19, 23, 90, a selection from the "Hallel" Psalms 113-118, 126, 130 and 145 (the "*Ashrei*").

Tuesday Evenings@ the Magid Institute Armadale 7.30pm -9.45pm

Term One: February 15, 22 March 1, 15, 22 no classes April May 3, 10, 17

### 1. Religion and Society

*Michael Cohen*

Course Code TE1/MC

The Religion (in casu, Judaism) and Society course will provide an overview of Jewish core beliefs; the expression and development of Jewish core beliefs eg ethical monotheism, divine creation, and their implications for the Jewish tradition and its adherents; the interplay between religious beliefs and significant life experiences;

We shall focus on some of the following - or more: What are Judaism's core beliefs? Does Judaism have a dogma? The 'vehicles' through which Judaism finds its expression: beliefs, rituals, individual experience (spirituality), sacred texts, myths and narratives, ethics and codes of behavior, social structures, and symbols. Significant life experiences: eg human suffering (and theodicy...the justification of God); related texts (eg Kushner's "When Bad Things Happen to Good People") and the degree to which the Jewish tradition has remained resilient in the face of a select number of challenges – both historical and contemporary.

### 2. Israeli Society through the lens of modern Israeli film *Ittay Flescher*

Course Code: TE1/IF

*Repeated due to popular demand*

Israel is simultaneously a contemporary nation-state of people from diverse religious, ethnic and national identities, as well as a traditional homeland for Jewish people. Israelis marked by contested borders, waves of immigrants and a cacophony of cultures, ideas and people. This course aims to analyse how Israelis confront the many dilemmas of living in such a land through the lens of a broad range of Israeli Films. The final session will be a full screening of the 2004 *Walk on Water* by Eytan Fox.

### 3. Biblical Morality

*Paul Forgasz*

Course Code TE1/PF

Violence, lust, deception, murder, incest and vengeance. These are some of the topics we will explore through a close reading of various narrative and legal texts from the Bible. In doing so, we will gain an insight into the various moral perspectives of the Bible. Indeed, it can often be difficult for modern readers to internalise the moral boundaries and world view of the Bible, and to know whether the author of a particular biblical text is commending or condemning certain behaviours. In this course we will attempt to make sense of some of the more morally problematic texts from the Bible

Term Two : Tuesdays April 27 May 4,11,25 June 1, 8, 15, 22

### 1. Heroes and Harlots: The Stories behind the stories

*Yvonne Fein*

Course code: TE2/YF

Any thoughtful review of the Hebrew Bible inevitably provokes readers to inquire into the nature of good and evil or, even more provocatively, into the fine line often drawn between the sacred and the profane. Which is which? How do we tell? How do we effectively and meaningfully evaluate the characters in this drama which has captured the imagination of the world since it was first written? In this course students will explore the stories *behind* the stories. Using the tools of interpretation and midrashic investigation, we will evaluate the moral, ethical and legal dilemmas posed by these quite amazing characters in our foundation narrative. Why did Lot sleep with his daughters? Discover the phenomenal love story behind the relationship between Mordechai and Esther..

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*Paul Forgasz*

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### 3. Judaism and Science: In a parallel universe?

*Ronnie Figdor*

Course code TE2/RF

Almost 380 years since Galileo's debate with Catholicism, many suggest that aspects of the Jewish religion is still at odds with science. This course will explore the interface between religion and science and attempt to reconcile the differences. We will grapple with topics such as astrology, human cloning, evolution versus genesis, Torah codes, Judaism meeting the challenges of technology and much more

Term Three: Tuesdays July 27 August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 September 7, 14

## **1. Reading Genesis – *A literary approach***

***Paul Forgasz***

Course Code TE3/PF

Bill Moyers, the creator of the groundbreaking American public television series on Genesis writes that the stories in the book speak to us because they are so human. These stories have shaped our views about human frailty, sexuality parents and children husbands and wives, sibling rivalry, faith, moral freedom and sin. Through them we learn about the best and worst of the human condition.

This course will focus on the first 25 chapters of the book of Genesis, examining the various stories about early humanity, as well as the great epic narrative about Abraham's spiritual odyssey. These stories have shaped our views about human frailty, sexuality, parents and children, husbands and wives, sibling rivalry, faith, moral freedom and sin. Through them, we learn about the best and worst of the human condition.

## **2. Islam : An Introduction**

***Rachel Woodlock***

Course Code TE3/RW

This course will provide an overview of the history of Islam and Islamicate civilisations consider various domains of Islamic knowledge (exegesis, theology, law, philosophy, mysticism); examine life-cycle rituals of Muslims; look at relations with other religious communities. particularly the Jews ;debate Muslim politics; and introduce the story of Muslims in Australia.

Participants will acquire knowledge of the basic beliefs and practices of Muslims as well as how Islam and Muslims relate to Judaism and Jews. They will develop an awareness of Muslim diversity; understand differences between traditional, neo-traditional, Islamist, Orientalist, modernist and progressive voices; and question the paradigm of the "clash of civilisations".

Term Four: Oct 5,12,19,26 Nov 9,16, 23,30

**1. Creation to Nation: Metamorphosis Narratives from Genesis**

**Adina Bankier Karp**

Course Code TE4/ABK

Despite her sweet smile and soft embrace, perhaps the individual most responsible for crippling potential advancement of the adult's Jewish knowledge, is the kindergarten teacher! Decades after the fact, our blinkered Biblical horizons can be attributed to the banalities we heard on those Friday mornings at age three or four! None of us would attempt to squeeze into those trousers and shoes we wore all those decades ago, and yet too often, we find ourselves clothed with knowledge of the same vintage! This journey seeks to facilitate a return to those central narratives and characters of Genesis and, with the help of commentators across the ages, we will try to chase that kindergarten teacher off the page, and emerge with considered readings cut from couturiered, contemporary cloth

**2. Zionism Past, Present and Future**

**Zvi Civins**

Course Code TE4/ZC

What is Zionism? When did it begin? Where is it first mentioned? How has it changed, and what does it mean today? This course will investigate the origins, growth and development of Zionism. We will consider a cross section of key texts, thinkers, proponents (and opponents!) and expressions of this national/religious belief. a variety of sources will be used including traditional texts, film, modern commentators and internet sites...

**3. Modern Genocides: The Holocaust to Darfur**

**Sue Hampel**

Course Code TE4/SH

This course explores the Holocaust as a turning point in human history, the causes and effects of modern genocides and examines what is now being done to prevent mass atrocities across the world. The central aim of the course is to provide a detailed historical understanding of specific incidents of mass killings and genocide in the 20th century, focussing on Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. The course will look closely at the United Nations Genocide Convention and its role in the definition and prevention of genocide. The course will be structured around historical analysis, talks by survivors of genocide (if possible) and films.

**4. City, Desert, Periphery: Compass Points in Israeli and Palestinian Literature**

**Keren Rubinstein**

Course Code TE4/KR

This course takes a closer look at a selection of Israeli and Palestinian works of literature, both fiction and non-fiction, through the lens of place. How is setting used to deliver a particular social and cultural reality? What is the significance of life in the shadow of the big city or the kibbutz, and how have each of these locations transformed in the literary imagination over time? This program will help us map these twin literary fields and discover that place is much more than backdrop. Writers examined include Edward Said, Amos Oz, David Grossmann, Etgar Keret, Samir Al Youssef and Sayed Kashua, Moshe Shamir

## 2010 GRADUATE ENROLMENT AND PAYMENT FORM

### Your Details

Given Name:	Surname:	Title:
Address:		Postcode:
Tel: Home:	Mobile:	Fax:
Email:	Current/Past Occupation	

*Courses will only run with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 25 participants and are subject to change.*

I wish to apply for: (please tick)

### Monday DAY

### Tuesday EVENING

TERM 1 Course Code: MD1/	TERM 1 Course Code: TE1/
TERM 2 Course Code: MD2/	TERM 2 Course Code: TE2/
TERM 3 Course Code: MD3/	TERM 3 Course Code: TE3 /
TERM 4 Course Code: MD4/	TERM 4 Course Code: TE4/
All printed material is now included in the course fees plus GST	
<b>Cost: \$235 per course</b>	

I am paying for ... no. of courses @ \$235 per course \$.....

Enrolment will only be made on receipt of payment

Payments may be made in one of three ways

Total paid \$ .....

1.  CHEQUE to 'Florence Melton Adult Mini School for courses or the JEWISH MUSEUM if a DONATION send this form and cheque to: PO Box 117, St Kilda 3182 OR

2.  NETBANK :BSB 013- 427 A/C No. 1108-66518

Fax or email details of your name, course codes, amount and date paid. OR

Complete the section below and FAX 9534 0844 or POST to PO Box 117, St Kilda VIC 3182

3.  CREDIT CARD Please charge my  Visa OR  MasterCard

Note: A bank fee of \$3 per course will be added to fees

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Expiry	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Name on Card	<input type="text"/>	Total Amount	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Payment must be received in order for enrolment form to be processed, so enrol early to guarantee your place!

A fee of \$54 will be charged on withdrawal from a course less than 7 days prior to commencement or after course has commenced.

No refunds will be issued on withdrawal from a course, after its commencement.

For further information: Phone: Leah on 8534 3625 / 0403 052641

FAX: 9534 0844 email :melton @jewishmuseum.com.au

## Lecturer Profiles

**Adina Bankier Karp** has a Masters in Jewish Studies and Education from Monash University and is a graduate of the Melton Senior Educator's Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2006-2007). She has been teaching Jewish studies and English at Scopus since 1999, write the school's weekly Parsha Peep and run the Mother-Daughter Batmitzvah program. I learn and give shiurim at Mizrahi's Beit Midrash, particularly for teenagers and university-aged students.

She has managed to keep a fish and veggie patch alive for almost 6 months, and is returning to full-time work after a year's maternity leave. Other passions include jogging, roller-blading, reading and eBaying!

**Zvi Civins** has been involved in Jewish education since 1975, when he learned Hebrew as an adult at Ulpan Etzion, in Jerusalem. He lived, studied and taught in Jerusalem for two years, until 1977. Zvi married my Australian born wife, Marian (and a Melton Grad this year!) in Jerusalem in July 1976 (two days after the raid on Entebbe!). He returns frequently to Israel, whether on his own or with school groups, and loves being there. Zvi has taught Jewish Studies at King David School and Bialik College since moving to Melbourne in 1985. It has been a pleasure teaching for him to teach young people, and the classroom is his second home. His current Role is the Director of Education, Jewish Holocaust Centre, responsible for school educational programmes, guides and professional development- job which offers enormous challenges and satisfaction

**Michael Cohen** is the much loved former vice-principal of Bialik College. He has been involved in Jewish education for about four decades - in Australia and South Africa, where has lectured extensively. He has served the Jewish community in various capacities - professionally and otherwise - with great distinction. He remains passionate about Jewish learning - and about his grandchildren (but why should he be any different from other grandparents?)

**Yvonne Fein** is a performed and published playwright, novelist, editor and lecturer. Her short stories, essays, book reviews and interviews have appeared in anthologies, journals and newspapers locally, (including *The Age*, *The Australian* and *Meanjin* online) in the U.S. and the U.K. She has edited *The Melbourne Chronicle* (co-editor, Arnold Zable) and *Generation* journal, as well as award-winning Holocaust memoirs by survivors. She has been a writer-in-residence at a number of Melbourne schools (including MacRobertson Girls' High School and Mount Scopus Memorial College) and lectured extensively on literature and writing in the Jewish and wider Australian community. In 2008, her second novel, *The Torn Messiah*, was published by Hybrid Publishers and she also completed her Masters degree in History with High Distinction at Monash University.

**Ronnie Figdor** has a B.Sc. majoring in Pathology and Pharmacology and worked in Melbourne's Austin Hospital Department of Medicine whilst undertaking a M.Sc. He studied rabbinics in Kol Torah Rabbinical College, (Jerusalem), Ner Israel Rabbinical College, (Baltimore), and Machon Harry Fischel (Jerusalem). He has been involved in emergency service work for over two decades and is the Executive Director of the community's Jewish Emergency Management Plan (JEMP). He also runs a computer and management company and has written many papers on a range of subjects including education, medicine and computers. He has worked in adult education, lecturing at CAE and Curtin University particularly on Jewish Ethics and is currently a Melton faculty member teaching that subject. He is tolerated by a wife and three children – barely!

Israeli born **Ittay Flescher** has been exploring and observing Jewish life for as long as he can remember. He is dynamic and creative educator who has taught at the Adass Israel School, Bialik College, Mount Scopus College and the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School. Ittay is currently the Jewish Studies Curriculum Convenor at The King David school where he also teaches Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the Secondary School. Ittay recently returned from a year of study in Israel as a fellow on the Hebrew University and Melton Centre, Senior Educators Program. Ittay's other love is music and he can often be heard in class singing Shabbat songs accompanied by guitar.

**Paul Forgasz** has been involved professionally in Jewish education for the past 30 years including a decade as Headmaster of the Secondary School at Mt. Scopus College. He presently lectures in Jewish history, Jewish education and comparative religion at Monash University of which he is also Associate Director. In addition, Paul is the head of faculty at the Florence Melton Adult Mini School in Melbourne. During 2004 Paul was scholar in residence at the Pittsburgh Jewish Education Institute but had to return because his pets missed him.

**Sue Hampel** is a daughter of a Holocaust survivor. Sue is a teacher at Mt Scopus Memorial College Graduate of Senior Educator's Program at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem in 2001, Sue introduced March of the living Program into Australia. In 2006 New Zealand students joined the program. Nearly 600 Australian students have participated in this journey to Poland and Israel. Sue is a tutor in Holocaust Studies at Monash University and has presented academic papers to Holocaust Studies conferences at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Member of Advisory Board for the Graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies at Deakin University and a recipient of NCJW Victoria Sylvia Gelman Award for outstanding Female educator in the area of Jewish Studies- 2005.

**Fred Morgan** is Senior Rabbi of the Victorian Union for Progressive Judaism (VUPJ), Chairman of the Australian and New Zealand Union for Progressive Judaism Rabbinic Assembly and an active supporter of the Victorian Council of Christians and Jews. He was previously a lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of Bristol in England, specializing in Indian religions. He was also an Adjunct Lecturer in Midrash and Contemporary Jewish Thought at the Leo Baeck College. In October 1997 he was awarded the title of Honorary Fellow from the Leo Baeck College. He is an Honorary Associate Rabbi of the Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish community in Budapest, Hungary where he has visited regularly over several years. Rabbi Morgan currently serves as the principal minister at Temple Beth Israel in Melbourne.

**Freydi Mrocki** has devoted much of her life to Yiddish, as both performer and teacher. With a background in Yiddish theatre, Freydi is the lead singer of the band Klezmania and is often sought as an advisor in Yiddish song. She has worked with The Melbourne Chorale, Kate Cebrano; film and documentary makers, as well as countless organisations within our Jewish community and run work shops in Jewish music and Yiddish song at festivals. However she earned her *parnose* teaching Yiddish at both Mount Scopus Memorial College and Sholem Aleichem College where she was Head of Pre School Yiddish and Jewish Studies. All this whilst not being able to read a note of music!!

**Ran Porath** is an immigrant history scholar. Currently, a doctorate student at the Australian Center for Jewish Civilization at Monash University, writing a thesis titled "Yordim Down-Under: The Israeli Diaspora in Australia".

A journalist and analyst, with considerable experience in the media in Israel and Australia. Also specializes on international security and the Iranian nuclear program.

**Keren Rubinstein** has been a Hebrew language and literature lecturer at Monash and Melbourne Universities, where she has completed a BA and MA. She is currently completing her doctorate, which is a creative writing, autobiographical project. She is also researching the nature of Israeli autobiography written since the 1990s. Her previous research encompassed Israeli military fiction and Tel Aviv's formation and transformation in the novels of Yaakov Shabtai. Born in Israel, Keren has been living in Australia since 1992 and often satisfies her homesickness with Bisli and Israeli soopies.

**Rachel Woodlock** is a practising Muslim. She is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for Islam and the Modern World in the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University. Rachel has a Master of Islamic Studies from the University of Melbourne, has studied Arabic in Yemen and is currently undertaking studies in Maliki sacred law. Her research interests include social inclusion of Muslims, conversion, religious pluralism, Muslim feminism, and heterodox Islamic religious movements. Her most recent publication is the chapter on "Islamic Beliefs and Practices" in the *Encyclopedia of Religion in Australia*, edited by James Jupp (Port Melbourne, Vic: Cambridge University Press, 2009).