Suzanne D. Rutland OAM
Developing Jewish Education
1985–2015
This Yearbook has been compiled and published in honour of Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM on the occasion of her retirement as a full-time academic at The University of Sydney after more than 30 years of dedicated service.

Professor Rutland has given her heart and soul to the University’s Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies and its predecessor, the Department of Semitic Studies, and served also as Head of Department. The Department is a priceless intellectual asset, the only University department in Australia that produces graduates who go on to become secondary school teachers in classical and modern Hebrew, as well as other fields of Jewish learning, spanning Jewish history from Ancient Israel through to the two pivotal events of the modern era, the Holocaust and the re-birth of the State of Israel.

Professor Rutland has excelled in all facets of her academic career – as a researcher, teacher and administrator – authoring numerous books and peer-reviewed articles and inspiring and mentoring hundreds of her students.

These students, whom Suzanne has taught, mentored, or guided, are among the upcoming generation of leaders, who are entering careers not only in education but also in the law, the public service and private enterprise. They do so enriched by the education they have received in Hebrew languages and Jewish history and culture, and with a deep understanding of the rich contributions that the Jewish people have made to civilization.

In this Yearbook we profile some of those students and celebrate their achievements and contributions to society.

Peter Wertheim AM
Chair, Fund for Jewish Higher Education
Suzanne D. Rutland OAM

Professor Suzanne Dorothy Rutland (née Perlman) was born in 1946 on Sydney’s North Shore to Perla and Nat (Naftali), refugees, originally both from Poland. Her family was very involved with the North Shore Synagogue from its early years, and Suzanne’s love of Jewish history and Judaism was fostered there.

After completing her Leaving Certificate at North Sydney Girls’ High in 1963, she was selected to represent B’nai Akiva on Machon L’Madrichei Hutz L’Aretz (Institute for Youth Leaders from Abroad), and on her return decided to go into teaching. She completed majors in Hebrew in the Department of Semitic Studies, with Professor Emeritus Alan Crown and Rabbi Dr Israel Porush as her lecturers, as well as Honours in History, supervised by Professor Ken Cable, who continued as her supervisor for both her MA (Hons), graduating with First Class Honours in 1976, and PhD in 1991.

While continuing with her graduate studies part-time, Suzanne completed a Dip Ed at the old Sydney Teacher’s College, and then taught English and History at Canterbury Girls’ High until 1974, when her son, Benjamin Naftali, was born. The late Harold Nagley had invited her to introduce a modern Jewish history course at Moriah College in 1974, but due to the birth of her first child, the course had to wait two years, starting in 1976. Her second child, Ronit Yaffa, was born in 1977.

On submission of her doctoral thesis in 1990, she founded the Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher education program in the Faculty of Education at the University of Sydney and in 1997 was appointed as Lecturer in Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture in the Faculty of Arts, then as senior lecturer, moving up the ranks until she was promoted to Professor in 2011. She served as Head of Semitic Studies and then Chair, when it became Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, following a Faculty restructure, running the department for 11 years. In this period, she built it up from two full-time lecturers, to five full-time positions, thanks to the major bequest from Felicia Roth Foundation.

On the national level she has contributed to a better understanding of Australian migration history, particularly since 1945, as well as ethnic relations between the Jewish and Muslim communities in Australia. She has developed an international reputation, contributing to the knowledge of three major totalitarian movements: Nazism, Communism and Radical Islam. In each case, Jews have been a primary target, with the Holocaust, the persecution of Soviet Jewry and, more recently, anti–Jewish feelings amongst some radical Muslims. Her research into Australian reactions to these movements has deepened our knowledge in these areas. In retirement, she plans to continue her research and writing, as well as enjoying her three grandchildren in Sydney and her son in Israel.

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My Educational Philosophy
Professor Suzanne Rutland

I began my career in Jewish education at the age of 13, and since then have been deeply involved in Jewish education. When we moved to the eastern suburbs in 1962, I ran the Children’s Service with Joe Friedman at South Head Synagogue, as well as being very active as a madricha in B’nei Akiva. On my return from Israel, I ran the education programs for B’nei Akiva in Sydney.

My love of Jewish history began early, when I was awarded the Lionel Rosalky Prize in its first two years in the early 1960s, and led to my establishing the Modern Jewish history course at Moriah. This was a pioneering project, because we were the first Jewish day school in Australia to move beyond a traditional curriculum and introduce modern Jewish history including Holocaust Studies. As part of my philosophy, I decided in 1976 to make the Hans Kimmel Competition, introduced by Mrs Sophie Caplan a year earlier, a compulsory element of the Year 10 Jewish History program. This has become a central part of Moriah’s Jewish Studies program, now for a second generation.

I have always believed passionately in the importance of maintaining our rich Jewish heritage through education. Having grown up in Australia in the 1950s, when in many ways Sydney was a spiritual and educational desert, I have been largely self-taught. However, I have been very aware of the need to create Jewish centres of learning, and that this needs to be not only at day school level, but also at university level. I feel that Jewish University Studies is the roof of learning, and that this needs to be not only a traditional curriculum and intro, but also at university level. I feel that Jewish University Studies is the roof of learning, and that this needs to be not only

A local Jewish teacher-training program is so important for so many reasons. My early years teaching at Moriah made me aware of the difficulties of being a Jewish Studies/Hebrew teacher. We were second-class citizens as far as parents and students were concerned – it was secular studies that mattered. The fact that many of the teachers lacked proper qualifications further detracted from their status. A high quality teacher education program can overcome these problems. It enables graduates to use modern teaching methodologies, to be fully cognizant of new developments and as professional as their general studies colleagues. It is also very powerful for the children when they see a local person choosing a career in teaching Jewish and Hebrew Studies. Local graduates can have a better understanding of the needs of our children, having grown up here.

Another aspect of Jewish education is the need for research and evaluation. It is for that reason that I am grateful for the support from the Pratt Foundation for the major study into Jewish education in Australia and the Pacific Region with Professor Zehavit Gross of Bar Ilan University (Tel Aviv). Our research has shown that the schools are facing major intergenerational challenges, with the Holocaust and Israel Studies being much less important to the current generation, who tend to take a more universalist approach, rather than being concerned with issues within our community. We need to be innovative in our teaching and learning methodology, and to take a constructivist approach, rather than an essentionalist approach. To do this, we must prepare our local teachers and ensure we have a good professional development program in place.

I hope that we reach a stage in our Jewish day schools, when we have not only professionally trained Hebrew and Jewish Studies teachers, but also inspirational educators. We need teachers who can utilise interactive learning techniques and constructivist approaches, which challenge our students and enable them to value our rich Jewish heritage, as well as the universal messages of Judaism. In addition, I hope that our community leaders will recognise the key role of new developments and as professional as their general studies colleagues. It is also very powerful for the children when they see a local person choosing a career in teaching Jewish and Hebrew Studies. Local graduates can have a better understanding of the needs of our children, having grown up here.
History of the Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies Department

There have been Jewish connections with the University of Sydney since its foundation.

The Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies was founded in 1945 as the Department of Semitic Studies, and was headed by Evan MacLaurin until his retirement in 1978. During this period, the department developed programs in Classical Hebrew and Arabic along with other ancient Semitic languages such as Aramaic and Ugaritic. Both Modern and Mishnaic Hebrew were taught as options within the Classical Hebrew program. Upon Professor MacLaurin’s retirement, Professor Ra’anan Elbied was appointed Foundation Professor of Semitic Studies and has remained in this position until the present day, as well as being initially Head of Department.

In 1985 Professor Emeritus Alan Crown, AM, assumed the position of Head of Department, and served in that position until his retirement in 1999, as well as holding a personal chair. The late Professor Crown was trustee of a Fund established from a bequest of the late Rachel Lipton (née Mandelbaum), in the names of her parents, Rabbi Zallel and Freda Mandelbaum. He established Mandelbaum House, the Jewish residential college at the University of Sydney, which was opened in 1995 and provides support for the department’s postgraduate programs as well as the Archive of Australian Judaica in Fisher Library until 2013. In July 1999, Professor Suzanne Rutland succeeded Dr. Samar Attar, the senior lecturer in Arabic. Following the creation of separate schools in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in January 2003, the Department of Semitic Studies separated into Arabic and Islamic Studies and Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies within the then School of European, Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Studies. In 2011, Associate Professor Ian Young replaced Professor Rutland. After being housed in the main quadrangle for a quarter of a century, the department moved into Brennan MacCallum in June 2004. It is now part of the School of Languages and Cultures, which has its office on the fifth floor of the building. Its program has greatly expanded over the years and is currently the only University centre in Australia to offer majors in Biblical, Classical and Modern Hebrew and Jewish Civilisation.

Major Benefactors

The survival of the Department is thanks to the generosity of a few major benefactors. Above all, the bequest left to the Fund for Jewish Higher Education from the late Felicia Einhorn for six million dollars has provided the lifeblood for the continuation of Jewish university studies since the Einhorn Fund was established in 2002.

The Einhorns

The Holocaust

Felicia and Stefan Einhorn were born in Krakow, Poland. Stefan on 7 August 1906 and Felicia on 10 August 1914. Stefan met the stunningly beautiful sixteen-year-old Felicia and they married in 1931. Their only child was born in Krakow on 19 November 1935 – named Maryla (Polish) with the Hebrew name Malka after Felicia’s late mother. Three years later Stefan’s sister, Cesia, married the yeshiva-educated flour merchant Bernard Tobias and their only daughter Ina (Bina in Hebrew) was born in 1936.

With the German invasion of Poland, Stefan and Bernard Red East, fearing that all males would be interned in labour camps, as had occurred during the Nazi pogrom of November 1938. When they reached Luv in eastern Poland they were relieved to find the Red Army there, seemingly in defence of Poland. On 28 September 1939, Poland was partitioned between Germany and the USSR. Felicia was desperate to get winter clothes and money to Stefan and Bernard and, a few months later, she paid smugglers to get her into Luv. However, on her return journey, she was arrested by the Russians, who accused her of being a German spy and interned her as a political prisoner in the Siberian Gulag. For seven years, she suffered extreme deprivation and anguish there.

Stefan and Bernard were also arrested by the Soviets and transported to forest labour camps northeast of the USSR, where they were forced to fell trees in Mariskaya. Later, they were transported to Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Throughout, the two brothers-in-law shared the one bed, the hardships of labour camp life and exile. However, theirs was a lesser ordeal than that endured by Felicia because, after a time, the two men were able to secure accounting work. Ironically their arrest and deportation from Luv saved their lives as, in fact, did Felicia’s arrest and imprisonment.

In 1946 Stefan and Bernard returned to Krakow shocked to learn that all their relatives had been murdered. It took Stefan many months to find Felicia in the Gulag and organise her release. Felicia rarely spoke of her years in prison or the loss of little Malka, her father and seven siblings. Cousins, Ina and Malka had been murdered in the extermination camp, Belzec, after being first deported from Krakow to the Brzesko Ghetto, with Stefan’s parents and his sister Cesia.

Only one sister, Paulina, survived by escaping to northern Italy, where an Italian couple had hidden her.
Building A New Life In Australia
In 1951, at the urging of Bernard Tobias, Stefan and Felicia Einhorn migrated to Australia. Bernard had married a fellow survivor, Clara Stern in 1948, and migrated to Sydney in 1949 – interestingly, due to the efforts of Chiune Sugihara, two of Clara’s cousins had managed to reach Australia via Japan early in the war. On arrival in Sydney, Bernard began a business manufacturing men’s overalls. When Stefan and Felicia arrived in Australia, Stefan joined Bernard as a business partner. Their acumen led them to diversify into jeans and casual clothing. They established a factory in Burwood and renamed their business “Leisuremaster”.

United by their prewar and wartime memories and the unspeakable loss they shared, Stefan and Bernard remained in partnership for 35 years and made a significant contribution to the Australian rag trade. Felicia was sadly unable to have more children but she and Stefan became close to Bernard’s and Clara’s new family. They were active in the Jewish service organisation, B’nai B’rith’s Sydney Lodge, and in a number of charities. In response to the tragedy they had endured, the couples were passionate about the importance of Jewish education and culture, the Hebrew language and the Jewish state.

In the 1970s Professor Alan Crown approached Sydney Lodge to help him raise funds for a lectureship in Modern Hebrew at the University of Sydney. Stefan and Felicia offered to sponsor the lectureship and asked that it memorialize their daughter, Malka, by establishing the lectureship in her name. In January 1985 Stefan was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia to recognise his service to the community, and in 1987 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the University.

After Stefan passed away in July 1996 Felicia moved into the same apartment block in which Bernard and Clara Tobias were living and remained there until her death in December 2000. When Professor Suzanne Rutland joined the department in 1997, she established contact with Felicia who felt that whilst she was alive she wanted to continue to donate to the Modern Hebrew lectureship. However, in her far-sighted will, she left a generous bequest to the Fund for Jewish Higher Education, for the teaching of Modern and Classical Hebrew and Jewish Civilisation at the University of Sydney. This was among a number of other charitable bequests, which reflected her and Stefan’s commitment of Jewish education and their love of Israel.

Henry Roth: Holocaust survivor, property developer and philanthropist
Henry (Hirsz) Roth was born into a Jewish family in Lublin, Poland in 1913. He was one of 4 children. When war broke out in September 1939, he escaped with his sister, brother-in-law and their daughter to Vilna in Lithuania. This was his first lucky break – even more so as Lithuania was then under Soviet, not Nazi rule. From there he managed to acquire a temporary visa to Kobe, Japan, through the rescue efforts of the Japanese Consul, Chiune Sugihara – his second lucky break.

After Pearl Harbour, Henry was sent from Kobe to Shanghai with around 1000 of the “Sugihara Jews”. He was forced to settle in the Hongkew area, which became known as the Jewish Ghetto. In Shanghai he met his beloved wife, Ann, a Jewish refugee from Berlin. They married in 1946 and subsequently migrated to Australia to join Henry’s sister and family who had also obtained Sugihara visas but had managed to reach Sydney directly from Japan.

In Sydney, Henry and Ann, and so many other continental Jewish pre and post-war refugees, turned to the ‘rag trade’. They operated a series of ladies wear shops under the name Wimbledon Fashions, the last one of which, in Manly, they sold in 1969. Henry then focused more on property investment and development.

Henry and Ann were very grateful to Australia for enabling them to start a new life far from the devastation of Europe and the confines of Shanghai. Eager to give something back to their new homeland, they established the Henry H. Roth Charitable Foundation. In 1995 the Foundation decided to support a lectureship in the department, in memory of Henry’s father, sister and brother and the other six million innocent Jewish victims – children, parents and grandparents – who tragically perished in the Holocaust. The lectureship was initially in Yiddish but from 2000 in Holocaust Studies and Jewish Civilisation. The position was first filled by Professor Emeritus Konrad Kwiet, and from 2012 by Dr Avril Alba. Henry’s and Ann’s sons, John and Stanley, and their families, have carried on their parents’ philanthropic legacy.
Ann Kirby was born Annemarie Plotke, on 26 June 1929, in Cologne, Germany. She is the only child of Walter and Nora Plotke. On her maternal side Ann is a descendant of eminent people such as the renowned rabbi and author Ludwig Philippson, and distinguished rabbi and historian Meyer Kayserling.

Ann and her parents left Germany in October 1935 and settled in Zagreb, former Yugoslavia, where in 1935 Ann commenced her education at a Jewish day school. When in 1939 the family’s residence permit expired, they were expelled from Yugoslavia. They went to Budapest, Hungary, home of Ann’s residence permit expired, they were expelled from Yugoslavia. They went to Budapest, Hungary, home of Ann and her parents left Germany in October 1935 and settled in Zagreb, former Yugoslavia, where in 1935 Ann commenced her education at a Jewish day school. When in 1939 the family’s residence permit expired, they were expelled from Yugoslavia. They went to Budapest, Hungary, home of Ann’s family’s residence permit expired, they were expelled from Yugoslavia.

Ann spoke no English when she arrived here, yet following primary school she gained admission to the academically selective Sydney Girls High School. At Sydney University, Ann completed a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in French and German and then a Bachelor of Laws (Hon). Almost twenty years later, she completed a Diploma of Languages (Classical Hebrew) and a Diploma of Arts (Jewish Civilisation Thought and Culture) at Sydney University. During this time she also undertook a semester’s study at Hebrew University as part of her studies.

Between 1959 and 1997 (when she retired), Ann was a partner in the Sydney law firm E. J. Kirby & Co. where she mentored many young solicitors. In 1998 Ann married Ernest Joseph Kirby, the founder of the firm.

Ann worked tirelessly for the law and for numerous community groups. In both situations she served on many committees and took on positions of president and chair where required. Amongst her many roles, Ann was the first woman to be elected to the Council of the Law Society of New South Wales.

She also gave time and energy to the various branches of her family. Apart from giving time, Ann is a major financial donor to a variety of her favourite charities including the Jewish Communal Appeal, the Jewish Museum, the Emanuel Synagogue and School, and other educational, musical, research and medical organisations as well as sponsoring children.

Ann is also a generous supporter of the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies. Ann established the Special Purpose JCA Plotke Fund, the first priority of which is Teacher Education programs undertaken by the Fund for Jewish Higher Education (FJHE). The Fund is essential in supporting the half time lecturership in the Faculty of Education in Teaching Classical Hebrew and Judaism.

Ann Kirby: the Plotke Fund

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Michael Abrahams-Sprod  
PhD (1997) UNSW Russian, German and French  
GradDipEd (1988) UNSW Modern Languages  
MA (1983) UNSW  
BA (1980) UNSW  
GradDipEd (1985) Macquarie  
PhD (2004) Sydney  

I am a lecturer in the Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture program in the Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies Department at the University of Sydney. I teach and research Jewish history, Holocaust studies and Israel studies. I am, in addition, a facilitator for the Melton Program, teaching both its core courses and its scholarly program. I also hold the position of President of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies. My role as an educator in the Jewish and wider communities involves teaching courses and giving guest lectures at synagogues and communal organisations, including the Sydney Jewish Museum, B’nai Brith and the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. In all of my endeavours Suzanne has been a support and driving force, offering both scholarly advice (particularly as co-supervisor with Professor Konrad Kwiet of my PhD) and encouragement, leading to many of the educational opportunities and roles which I occupy today.

Rachel Freilich  
PhD  

I transferred my doctoral studies to Sydney University from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where I received my BAMus and MA degrees. At the time of the transfer I had already completed years of doctoral research into the intergenerational transition of Hasidic song from grandmother to granddaughter in various Hasidic sects in Jerusalem. The interdisciplinary nature of writing a thesis in ethnomusicology meant that the areas of expertise were split between my music supervisor at Monash University and Suzanne who supervised everything else, including all ethnological aspects. Suzanne’s knowledge of the Sydney Jewish community was instrumental in directing me to various individuals who would be open to being interviewed in order to research the Habad section of my doctorate.

My weekly meetings in Suzanne’s home, over a period of years were a source of inspiration and encouragement for me. It is due to her tireless enthusiasm that the fascinating and unexplored territory on the transmission of song among Hasidic women finally emerged as a PhD dissertation.

Rabbi Dovid Slavin  
PhD (2014) Sydney  

As executive director of Yeshiva College, Yeshiva Centre and Yesiva Gedolah, the only rabbinical training college in NSW, I saw from the outset the importance of having the program accredited by the NSW government.

My PhD, which focuses on rabbinical training in Poland until World War II, has given me the perspective to develop best practices in the training of rabbis here in Sydney.

Professor Suzanne Rutland has been an integral part of my studies: if it was not for her support, encouragement and guidance my thesis would not have been completed.

If we ponder why it is common practice to inquire into the competency of a doctor before a treatment, yet not of a pilot before boarding an aircraft, it may be perhaps because regardless of the outcome of the surgery the doctor goes home peacefully, while the pilot’s final destination is that of the passengers. Professor Suzanne Rutland was that pilot who travelled the entire journey together with me.

Asi Aharonov  
PhD (2009)  

Between 2006 and 2009 I was a co-coordinator of, and a lecturer in, the Jewish Studies Teacher Training Program at the Faculty of Education and Social Work, the University of Sydney. I am today involved in overseeing research projects concerning social issues in Israel. Professor Rutland assisted me in acquiring research capabilities and provided guidance and ongoing support at the different professional stages of my career.

Racheline Barda  
PhD (2013)  

My university studies largely concerned French literature and theatre, Jewish history and civilization, and the history of the Holocaust. I give a series of lectures at the University of Sydney on the twenty-five centuries of Jewish life in Egypt from antiquity to modern times, and on the Cairo Genizah and the impact its discovery had on scholarship. I also lecture on the question of the Jewish refugees from Arab lands, specifically Egypt, as part of the course on the Arab-Israeli Conflict. I am often invited to give talks to Jewish communal institutions on various aspects of my PhD thesis on the Jews of Egypt. For the past nineteen years, I have been a volunteer guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum, teaching the history of the Holocaust to visiting students and adults. Suzanne was my PhD supervisor and became my mentor and my friend. Always generous with her time and invaluable experience, she encouraged me every step of the way until I submitted my thesis and beyond. I am forever in her debt.
Professor Suzanne Rutland Honours Students

The University of Sydney
Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies

2015 Yearbook

Behatzla rabba. We will return to Jerusalem and continue our talks. Suzanne and I, around a kitchen table in the early morning hours, that exposed the passion with which Suzanne cares about all things educational and all things Jewish. She shares her heart with Sydney's Jewish community and Israel and I hope that in the not too distant future we can sit down together again, Suzanne and I, around a kitchen table in Jerusalem and continue our talks. Behatzla rabba.

Joy Steiner

In my acknowledgment to Suzanne in my MA thesis I wrote that a mere token of appreciation would not suffice and that I acknowledged rather, an expression of profound and genuine thanks. Then, as now, I thanked her for her insight, her knowledge, her wisdom, her fairness and, importantly, deep appreciation for advising without imposing, so that her mentoring ensured a final accurate and precise research thesis, but one that still belonged to Joy Steiner. I miss the hours we spent together in discussion, Suzanne and I, often on matters totally unrelated to my research, but hours that exposed the passion with which Suzanne cares about all things educational and all things Jewish. She shares her heart with Sydney's Jewish community and Israel and I hope that in the not too distant future we can sit down together again, Suzanne and I, around a kitchen table in Jerusalem and continue our talks. Behatzla rabba.

Niccolo Tofoni

My MA study on Israeli History and Politics included a semester on exchange at Hebrew University. My studies included all of West Asia, and my education has been called upon in relation to Australia's electoral aid programs from Iraq to Tunisia. In my private life I have encountered several of the Professor's former students and colleagues in the ranks of the Australian Public Service. Professor Rutland continues to impact upon me and many other decision makers now working in Canberra.

MA (Coursework)

Niccolo Tofoni

BA (Hons) (2013)
MA (2015)

I am a Senior Policy Officer for the Australian Electoral Commission. Professor Rutland's work ethic and attention to detail continue to influence me in my work as an Australian Public Servant and I endeavour to live up to these standards every day. As a student of the Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies Department, I majored in the area of Israel studies, writing my honours essay on the topic: "The Australian Resolution: The role of Australian Jewry in the rescission of UNGA Resolution 3379 (Zionism equals racism)."

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Honours Students

Amelia Klein

BA (Hons) (2013) Sydney
MA (2015) Deakin University

My interest in Jewish history, thought and culture was sparked by a meeting with Professor Rutland during my first semester at Sydney University in 1999. Inspired by the course possibilities I decided to major in Jewish Civilizations, completed my Honours thesis on Sydney Child Survivors of the Holocaust with Professor Rutland and Professor Kwiet's supervision, and then studied grandchildren of Holocaust survivors for my PhD research at Deakin University.

Professor Rutland always encouraged and supported my academic interests and facilitated many opportunities. In 2006, upon completing my PhD I moved to New York City and have been involved in informal Jewish education since that time, first working for Avoda Arts, a media-based Jewish education organisation, and from 2007 to the present for the Jewish cultural arts think tank, Reboot, as the associate director. My love of Jewish history was fostered in my years as an undergraduate. Thinking and learning in Professor Rutland's classes, there was always the possibility for more questions to ask, more areas to research, and the sense that Jewish history and culture was being shaped in the present, past and for the future. For this gift I will always be appreciative. Thank you Professor Rutland.

Nicole Landerer

BA (Hons) (2013) Sydney
MA (2015)

Under the guidance of Professor Suzanne Rutland, the Hebrew Biblical and Jewish Studies Department has celebrated Yiddishkeit, scholarly rigor and a love of learning. I studied with the Department for four years and with Suzanne's encouragement, I undertook an Honors degree in Modern Hebrew. This experience provided me with the opportunity to explore my interest in Jewish learning, and in particular to refine and develop my Hebrew language skills. Suzanne was a mentor to me throughout my academic career. She encouraged my love of learning, inspired me to meet her high academic standards and fostered my Jewish identity.

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Graduates involved in Jewish Education
Leadership and Key Positions

**Yona Gilead**
BA 1984 The Hebrew University, Jerusalem
MA 1992 Sydney
PhD 1996 Sydney

Doctor of Education (2016) University of Technology

I have known Suzanne for over 25 years, since she first persuaded me to complete a Diploma of Education and train as a teacher of Modern Hebrew. In the years that followed, Suzanne continued to mentor me, first as a Hebrew teacher at Moriah College (1992 - 1997), and then as the Modern Hebrew lecturer at the University of Sydney where I am now the Malka Einhorn Modern Hebrew Lecturer and Program Coordinator. Moreover, it was Suzanne who encouraged, indeed pushed, me to embark on my doctoral studies. She then took upon herself a source of much information and insight. From that moment on, we became and remain good friends whilst supporting me always be grateful for the clarity and directness of her vision.

It is through Suzanne’s vision and support that the Modern Hebrew program at the University of Sydney has aligned itself with the curricula development at the Hebrew University’s Rothberg International School. I thank Suzanne for being my mentor and great friend whilst supporting me on the way to achieving many of my academic milestones, as well as my work in the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies.

**Neta Labi (Steigrad)**
BEd (Physical Education) 1984
Diploma Language Studies (Modern Hebrew) 1994
Master of Education (Languages Education) (Currently enrolled in MPhil)

After several years teaching English in Israel, and then Modern Hebrew in Sydney, I now teach pre-service teachers in Classical and Modern Hebrew methodology at the University of Sydney.

Suzanne and I have a similar understanding of, and appreciation for the importance of Jewish education, Jewish teacher education and best practice in Jewish education. Since I met her in 1999, when I began my Diploma of Language Studies, she has always been a constant in the Jewish Education community – helping, guiding and advising me, and so many others who are interested in contributing to Jewish education. She has been a source of much information and wisdom, and an invaluable guide in directing me to where I am today. She is an inseparable part of my educational and professional journey, and she is irreplaceable. I will always be grateful for the clarity and breadth of her vision.

**Avril Alba**
BA 1995 University of Adelaide
MA 1999, PhD 2011 University of Adelaide

I am currently the Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies and Jewish Civilisation at the University of Sydney. I am inspired daily by the work that our department does both in forging the next generation of Jewish educators and also in bringing into the wider community knowledge of and passion for Jewish history, and the study of Jewish civilization more broadly. It has been my pleasure and privilege to work alongside Suzanne in building a centre for excellence in Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish studies in Australia. Her vision and commitment have ensured a bright future for the department based on a firm foundation of support.

**Bryan Conyer**
MEd 2006 Sydney
PhD 2015 Sydney

I have served in various roles in Jewish education, including lecturer in Jewish Studies methods, facilitator in the Florence Melton mini-school, and as part of the leadership of the Jewish mission in Jewish day schools. During each stage of my work, Suzanne has been the constant, selfless and enthusiastic encourager and supporter. She has formally supervised my studies, ultimately being a primary motivator for me continuing with a PhD. During this time, she regularly met with me in Los Angeles, Sydney and via email in Israel. As lecturer, Suzanne constantly guided me through the University’s bureaucracy, and offered strategic suggestions to build communal support. As a professional Jewish educator, Suzanne never failed to find another avenue to support a teacher’s professional development, never lacked time to talk with someone, and appeared never to accept “no” as answer, if Jewish education would be compromised. Mazal tov to Suzanne for being the crown in our Jewish Day Schools.

**Lisa Cohen**
BA Jewish Civilization, Thought and Culture, Modern Hebrew

I am the Co-ordinator of Jewish Studies at Masada College and am passionate about Jewish Education and maximising opportunities, both in and outside of the classroom, to enrich students’ lives with Jewish learning. I am committed to continuous professional development and was given a foundation on which I could build my career in education by Suzanne and the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, through studying general Jewish History, the Holocaust and both modern and classical Hebrew.

**Jillian Fine**
BA
HDip Ed (University of the Witwatersrand)
Postgraduate Cert TESOL, Macquarie
Currently enrolled as Masters in Holocaust Studies, Sydney

I am currently Director of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, and the Administrator of the Fund for Jewish Higher Education.

My professor, mentor and now friend, Suzanne has completely altered my career path. After becoming a guide at the Sydney Jewish Museum, I felt a need to explore the Holocaust at a deeper level. With Suzanne’s encouragement I enrolled in a Master in Holocaust Studies. While studying with Suzanne, she unexpectedly offered me the position as Melton Director. Her belief in me has led to an unplanned and very enriching career in adult Jewish Education, both as the Melton director and as the administrator of the Fund for Higher Jewish Education. Suzanne has been a constant sounding board and invaluable advisor in all areas of my work. Her depth of vision has made me realise the importance of post-school Jewish education for Jewish continuity. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with this outstanding leader in the field of Jewish education.
Rabbi Yehoshua Smuckler

I fondly reflect on my early years in education as a primary school teacher in Moriah College, then onto Middle and High school. Studying my Grad Dip Ed and then my Masters across-institutional through UNE and Sydney Uni whilst in “active service”, ensured that all I learnt and imbided from the course was immediately relevant and supremely practical as I experimented in real time, in my own classroom.

Suzanne’s observations, guidance, facilitation of educational presenters and exposure to the world of Jewish educational thinkers / literature and beyond, sparked a lifelong passion of mine for learning and personal development. Well I guess the rest is history…I am still on that learning journey, and that journey was and remains instrumental in my current role, leading Yeshivah - Beth Rikiah Colleges, a rapidly growing school system of over 1500 children here in Melbourne.

Suzanne, you have much to look back on, and rightfully be extremely proud of. I’m both sorry for Jewish education in Australia and happy for you and your future in your personal life. I wish you the best of luck with all future endeavours and look forward to the opportunity of catching up with you one day in the near future in whichever role or pursuit you will put your passion into.

Mira HaSofer

After finishing high school, Suzanne encouraged me to complete a BEd at Sydney University. During my four years in the degree, I took Suzanne’s Jewish Civilisation course and also studied Hebrew under Yona Gilead. Throughout my studies, I spent time learning with and from Suzanne. I remember hours spent in her office in one of the oldest and nicest parts of the university. Suzanne supervised my honours thesis (an evaluation of an Academy BJE program), my practicums at Mount Sinai College and my ongoing work with Academy BJE. After completing my studies in 2001, I relocated to Hong Kong and took a teaching job at Carmel School (Hong Kong’s only Jewish day school) where I was able to teach Hebrew and Jewish studies as well as being a class teacher. In 2011, I accepted the Head of Elementary School post at Carmel School in Hong Kong, which I have held for the past four years.

For almost 20 years now, Suzanne has been a teacher, a mentor, a colleague, a confidant and a friend to me. She has listened from start to finish and has gently advised and suggested while maintaining an objectivity that I greatly admire. Suzanne recognised early that strong Jewish communities develop strong Jewish teachers and leaders from within, and she committed her life’s work to quietly and modestly building up a strong, respected and financially stable and sustainable department for Hebrew, Jewish education, Jewish history and Jewish life at the University of Sydney. This has had a far reaching impact on Jewish education internationally.

Sandy Koonin

I first met Suzanne at workshop for language teachers where I spoke to her about my desire to study further and to make a career of Hebrew teaching. Were it not for her advice, help and encouragement, I doubt that I would have embarked upon this career, which has become a great passion in my life. Suzanne’s help in facilitating the introduction of the NETA Program into the Jewish Day Schools did much to lift the level of Hebrew being taught. She has also contributed to the education and training of Jewish Studies and Hebrew teachers, which is a most important area if we are to provide high quality Jewish and Hebrew education.

She has always given of herself selflessly to help others in the field of Jewish Education and her contribution is significant.

I wish her well in her future endeavours.
Debbie Conn

Suzanne had a vision – she passionately wanted to develop Jewish education in Sydney and beyond – she inspired me, at a time when I was at crossroads as to which path I was going to take going back into a career in education. Suzanne single-handedly took me under her wing and gently coaxed me into becoming a Jewish Studies teacher. She created professional and relevant courses for teachers like me to transition into Jewish education. It is largely due to Suzanne that I am where I am today – in the forefront of Jewish and Hebrew teaching and learning at Moriah. When my training concluded under Suzanne’s tutelage, she directed me into the hands of Donna Delbaere who has taken over as my mentor and guiding light since coming to Moriah. I will be forever indebted to Moriah. I will be forever indebted to Suzanne for the ample rewards that she richly merits from her lifetime of dedication to the ennoblement of our People. Suzanne had a vision – she inspired me, at a time when I was at crossroads as to which path I was going to take going back into a career in education. Suzanne single-handedly took me under her wing and gently coaxed me into becoming a Jewish Studies teacher. She created professional and relevant courses for teachers like me to transition into Jewish education. It is largely due to Suzanne that I am where I am today – in the forefront of Jewish and Hebrew teaching and learning at Moriah. When my training concluded under Suzanne’s tutelage, she directed me into the hands of Donna Delbaere who has taken over as my mentor and guiding light since coming to Moriah. I will be forever indebted to Moriah. I will be forever indebted to Suzanne for the ample rewards that she richly merits from her lifetime of dedication to the ennoblement of our People. Suzanne had a vision – she inspired me, at a time when I was at crossroads as to which path I was going to take going back into a career in education. Suzanne single-handedly took me under her wing and gently coaxed me into becoming a Jewish Studies teacher. She created professional and relevant courses for teachers like me to transition into Jewish education. It is largely due to Suzanne that I am where I am today – in the forefront of Jewish and Hebrew teaching and learning at Moriah. When my training concluded under Suzanne’s tutelage, she directed me into the hands of Donna Delbaere who has taken over as my mentor and guiding light since coming to Moriah. I will be forever indebted to Moriah. I will be forever indebted to Suzanne for the ample rewards that she richly merits from her lifetime of dedication to the ennoblement of our People.

Rabbi Benji Levy

I am today - in the forefront of Jewish education. It is largely due to Suzanne that I am where I am today - in the forefront of Jewish and Hebrew teaching and learning at Emanuel School. Suzanne made it possible for me to fulfill my life-long dream of becoming a teacher. As an Israeli migrant to Australia I knew little about the local education system. Suzanne guided me through the process and options available to me and gave me invaluable advice. My thanks to Suzanne. I heeded her advice and here I am today, doing what I have always wanted to do: teach...and learn.

Rabbi Solomon

Few people in my long exposure to the world of Jewish education have contributed so incisively and with such competence and warmth as Professor Suzanne Rutland. Going back nearly half a century I clearly remember young Suzanne, freshly returned from Machon in Israel, as my madricha at Bnei Akiva camp.

When I was a trainee teacher at Moriah while pursuing my Diploma of Education, she was the school’s head of Jewish History. And when I was appointed College Rabbi, there was Suzanne Rutland on the Board of Management, always wise and supportive.

In later years, when I wrote my PhD thesis through La Trobe University on the Educational Teachings of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, it was again Suzanne who figured prominently, on this occasion as an examiner. Her guidance was highly valued; her positive and constructive comments were incorporated when the thesis was published as a book.

The professional lives of innumerable Jewish educators and scholars have been intertwined with and enhanced by the dedication of Dr Suzanne Rutland. Her friends, colleagues and students join as one in wishing Suzanne well.

Netanya Milner

I feel privileged to be the Head of Primary at The Emanuel School. My first years of teaching were spent in some wonderful public schools in Sydney. I then became Deputy Head of Primary at Masada College before moving to The Emanuel School in 2008. Over the past 8 years, I have also been Director of Studies K-6 and Deputy Head of Primary. In the course of my teaching degree, I majored in Hebrew at Sydney University and in fact was lucky enough to study with Suzanne. My passion for Hebrew and Jewish education began during my own schooling before being consolidated during my years studying Hebrew at Sydney University. While my role isn’t specifically teaching Hebrew, I feel very lucky that I am able to appreciate and reinforce the way our schools can build and support a vibrant and meaningful Jewish environment and culture.
Donna Delbaere  
BEd Sydney  
I am Principal and Co-CEO of the NSW Board of Jewish Education, and a Board member of the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University. In my second year of undergraduate study at the Sydney College of Advanced Education, all students were asked to choose a subject that would be counted as a major towards their final grades. It was at this time of deliberation that I spied a little notice on the pin board which highlighted the Jewish Studies and Hebrew course at Sydney University. I decided to choose this course as I wanted to keep my employment options open and, being a Moriah College graduate, I believed that the course would not be too taxing. It was therefore at Sydney University that I met Suzanne Rutland and this course changed the direction of my career. In my third year of studies Suzanne mentioned that the Bella Fine Scholarship Committee was seeking expressions of interest from students wishing to complete their BEd at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Along with other applicants, I applied for the scholarship and was successful. The scholarship not only entitled me to study and reside at the University, but also found employment for me the year after. Thus my teaching degree commenced, which ultimately led to my role today.

Gary Samowitz  
Master Jewish Studies starting from 2007  
I am the CEO of Stand Up (formerly Jewish Aid Australia). Prior to this I was the Hillal Director in Sydney for 3 years. I have been an educator on a range of Israel and Poland programs, and I run workshops at many Jewish schools and at the Limmud Oz conferences.

Doing a MA in Jewish Studies with Suzanne really triggered my interest in understanding the Australian Jewish community – its history, challenges, and structures. I have been working in the Jewish community for over 10 years and having this deeper understanding of the community has really benefited me in my roles and enhanced my ability to work effectively across a range of organisations. I really appreciated Suzanne’s encyclopaedic knowledge of our community and her support of all my research efforts. An entire generation of Jewish educators owe her thanks for her guidance and leadership. I wish her well in her future endeavours, and look forward to crossing paths again soon.

Rachele Schonberger  
BEd Dip Teach. Cert IV  
MEd Sydney  
I am the Principal and Co-CEO of the NSW Board of Jewish Education, and a Board member of the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University. In my second year of undergraduate study at the Sydney College of Advanced Education, all students were asked to choose a subject that would be counted as a major towards their final grades. It was at this time of deliberation that I spied a little notice on the pin board which highlighted the Jewish Studies and Hebrew course at Sydney University. I decided to choose this course as I wanted to keep my employment options open and, being a Moriah College graduate, I believed that the course would not be too taxing. It was therefore at Sydney University that I met Suzanne Rutland and this course changed the direction of my career. In my third year of studies Suzanne mentioned that the Bella Fine Scholarship Committee was seeking expressions of interest from students wishing to complete their BEd at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Along with other applicants, I applied for the scholarship and was successful. The scholarship not only entitled me to study and reside at the University, but also found employment for me the year after. Thus my teaching degree commenced, which ultimately led to my role today.

Rabbi Zalman Kastel  
GradDip Education (2000)  
I am the National Director of Together for Humanity, a Jewish, Christian and Muslim organisation that develops children’s intercultural understanding. I also served as the principal of the Eichel Chabad Hebrew (Sunday) School and taught formal and informal Jewish Studies at Masada, Yeshiva and Kesser Torah colleges. My first role in my teaching career was as a BJE Jewish Scripture teacher. I had a good knowledge of the Torah but knew very little about how to teach it. Suzanne persuaded me to enrol in formal study to change that. She introduced me to research and supported me along the way. Suzanne’s insistence that I do a graduate diploma in education including Jewish Studies and Hebrew Method provided me with skills and knowledge that are invaluable in guiding my teaching and educational leadership in all my roles.
Jewish Education

Fiona Ozana
Dip. Teach (Primary)
I attended the Sydney College of Advanced Education. As part of my teaching degree I took the study of Hebrew and Jewish Education into my course. It was 1984 when I commenced the course and I met some wonderful people who were then instrumental in shaping the course of my future career. Suzanne was one of these key people: at the time she was my lecturer in Jewish History as was Rabbi Freilich who at the time married my husband and myself. With Suzanne and the Rabbi giving me wonderful references I was able to secure a job at Masada College even prior to completion of my degree. Thereafter I ran the Hebrew programme (working for the wonderful Mr Wahlhaus of the Jewish Board of Education) teaching the Hebrew programme at Vaucluse Public School. A few years later I became the head of the Hebrew and Jewish Studies programme and coordinated the programme throughout all their preschools across 3 campuses.

I eventually began teaching at the Emanuel Woollahra Preschool and 6 years later I am the acting Director. The lovely addition to this story is that the circle is round and I have had the pleasure of having Suzanne’s two beautiful grandchildren in my care over the past few years – Noah and Leora. I wish Suzanne good luck in her well-earned retirement and I am deeply grateful for everything she did for me and I feel lucky to have known her. I will never forget her sitting in my class viewing my lessons, commenting, correcting and most of all encouraging! I wish Suzanne a great and relaxing retirement, filled with reading, learning, writing and doing the things she loves the most.

Leah Behar
Dip.Ed
Diplomati Modern Hebrew
I have been teaching Modern Hebrew in Sydney now for many years. Having qualified initially as an architect, I was able to do a Diploma in Language Studies, to enable me to teach Hebrew here. Suzanne was extremely supportive, and helped me navigate through the complex maze of enrolling for graduate study. Her guidance and encouragement ensured that I was able to do what I needed to do, in order to be able to make my individual contribution to the continuity of Jewish and Hebrew language education.

Leone Hersh
BA Dip Ed (1942) Linguistics, French and Japanese
Diplomati Modern Hebrew (1991) Hebrew
Advanced Diploma in Homoeopathy (2014)
My educational roles have included teaching Jewish Studies and Hebrew for Academy BJE, teaching Japanese, Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Moriah College and Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Mt Sinai College.

It was Suzanne who convinced me to study Hebrew formally at the University of Sydney in order to put my skills as a language teacher to use as a Hebrew teacher in the Sydney Jewish community. After graduating with a Diploma of Modern Languages including Hebrew teacher training, I went on to teach Hebrew at Mt Sinai and Moriah Colleges.

Osnat Zeevi
I have been teaching Modern Hebrew in Sydney now for many years. Having qualified initially as an architect, I was able to do a Diploma in Language Studies, to enable me to teach Hebrew here. Suzanne was extremely supportive, and helped me navigate through the complex maze of enrolling for graduate study. Her guidance and encouragement ensured that I was able to do what I needed to do, in order to be able to make my individual contribution to the continuity of Jewish and Hebrew language education.

Karen Smith
BA (1973)
LLB (1982)
DipArts (2002) Jewish Civilisation, Thought & Culture
Diplomati Jewish Studies (2005)
I am currently the Website Coordinator (responsible for website content) at NSW Board of Jewish Education. I am consulted by the curriculum writers as to religious aspects of the curriculum, and I also respond to external inquiries on religious and Jewish historical matters. I have previously taught Jewish Studies to both primary and high school students, and I oversaw the BJE Extension Jewish Studies program.

Suzanne has been the most wonderful role model: calm and methodical, yet passionate about all aspects of Jewish education and always encouraging to students and potential students. Her deep commitment to improving standards of Jewish education in the Australian community has also been inspirational.

Tom Nagel
BA
Plymouth New England University
As an itinerant teacher in the early days of my teaching career, I felt that my Bachelor of Arts in Classical Hebrew was a sufficient qualification to become a successful educator.

After all, many of the other successful Jewish Studies teachers at that time, had not even acquired tertiary qualifications. However, following a meeting with Suzanne, who was already a legendary educator at that time, I came to realise that a professional teaching Diploma was an essential complement to my existing qualification.

Subsequently, she assisted me in upgrading my BA to include a Modern Hebrew major at Sydney University.

Additionally, she mentored me through my studies at the University of New England where I undertook a Graduate Diploma of Education. I believe I was one of Suzanne’s first students to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education in Jewish Studies.

Without Suzanne’s foresight, perseverance, and ability to create outcomes from non-existent requirements, I believe I, and many other teachers, would not have achieved the training required for success in today’s educational world. The community must remain indebted to her sagacity and determination.

Dale Kessler (Pencharz)
Diplomati Teaching
I work as a teacher at Moriah College, where integration of the Jewish curriculum is positively encouraged. Suzanne saw my love for teaching and strongly encouraged me to work in Jewish Education. My first job was at The Emanuel School where I was the first general studies teacher who also taught Ivrit and Jewish Studies. This was a dream of Suzanne’s – to see Judaism integrated so beautifully into the curriculum. I remember Suzanne coming to watch me teach an art lesson and just smiling as the children were painting clowns for the festival of Purim. Suzanne was passionate about education and she truly inspired a whole lot of young educators to follow her dreams.

Naomi Heilpern
MPhil (2005)
Suzanne provided much information when I decided to become a Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher. With her encouragement I studied a Master of Teaching (Primary) Hebrew language and later attended Jewish Studies lectures. This has provided me with an immense amount of job satisfaction as well as amazing career opportunities including being Head of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at a Junior School in Sydney.

Osnat Zeevi
I have been teaching Modern Hebrew in Sydney now for many years. Having qualified initially as an architect, I was able to do a Diploma in Language Studies, to enable me to teach Hebrew here. Suzanne was extremely supportive, and helped me navigate through the complex maze of enrolling for graduate study. Her guidance and encouragement ensured that I was able to do what I needed to do, in order to be able to make my individual contribution to the continuity of Jewish and Hebrew language education.

KAREN SMITH
I am currently the Website Coordinator (responsible for website content) at NSW Board of Jewish Education. I am consulted by the curriculum writers as to religious aspects of the curriculum, and I also respond to external inquiries on religious and Jewish historical matters. I have previously taught Jewish Studies to both primary and high school students, and I oversaw the BJE Extension Jewish Studies program.

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Karen Smith
BA (1973)
LLB (1982)
Diplomati Modern Hebrew (2000)
DipArts (2002) Jewish Civilization, Thought & Culture
DipEd (2005)
I am currently the Website Coordinator (responsible for website content) at NSW Board of Jewish Education. I am consulted by the curriculum writers as to religious aspects of the curriculum, and I also respond to external inquiries on religious and Jewish historical matters. I have previously taught Jewish Studies to both primary and high school students, and I oversaw the BJE Extension Jewish Studies program.

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Anna Mayliss

Nineteen years ago, I came to Australia from Israel, with my degrees and qualifications, but without any idea what to do and which career path to take. Suzanne Rutland was my inspiration, my support and my guide. Thanks to her enormous effort, people like me could use their skills and background to become professional Jewish Studies/Hebrew teachers and valuable members of our community. During the almost twenty years of my teaching career in various Jewish Schools in Sydney, I have met many Hebrew teachers and most of them were graduates of Sydney University. My thanks to Suzanne, for her hard work and dedication. I am not sure where would I be today without her.

Jemma Lenn-Lopis

My BA studies at the University of Sydney included one semester at the Hebrew University (2004-5). After commencing a BA BEd at UNSW (2001) I attended Sydney University as part of a cross-institutional arrangement in order to study Modern Hebrew. Suzanne was pivotal in directing me to transfer my study to Sydney University, highlighting the high quality of Hebrew teaching, as well as the high calibre and range of Judaic Studies subjects. I had considered studying teaching in Israel but Suzanne pointed out the direct benefit to Australian Jewish schools of students graduating from an Australian-based university, hence my Masters in Teaching qualification from Sydney. I was a BJEd Madricha (2002-3) and taught prayers at Moriah College (2003-4). I completed Ulpan Ivrit at Kutsat Yavneh in 2004, and commenced working as a Jewish Studies teacher at Emanuel School in 2007. I completed the International Educators Conference at Yad Vashem and Alpha Neta training in 2010 and taught Hebrew in 2011. I took Maternity Leave in 2011 and currently teach my two young daughters Jewish concepts and Hebrew.

Bec Gaida

I first encountered Suzanne in 2002 when I started my BA at Sydney University. She is the major reason for me having my two degrees in my area. She has always been a kind and generous person who has helped me greatly over the years. I remember the day that I returned from Israel to find out that it was the day of enrolment for the Masters of Teaching course. I went to Suzanne and she guided me through the whole process. I didn’t even know if I wanted to do Primary or High School teaching, but the course for becoming a Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher would not have run without me in the high school teaching course – as a result I can now teach high school! I know that our many interesting discussions, dinners and lectures were not in vain – I have a passion for finding the facts and for researching Jewish events and history largely due to Suzanne’s influence and I pass that on to my students at Emanuel School. I wish her all the best for her hard work and dedication. I am not sure where would I be today without her.

Maria Iskander

I have been a Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher at Masada College, and briefly at Emanuel College, as well as a tutor to students from primary to tertiary levels. I have truly been honoured to have been welcomed and considered part of the important Jewish education community in Sydney. This was made possible with the guidance, inspiration and encouragement of my two original mentors Dr Yona Gilead and Professor Suzanne Rutland. Both of them encouraged and motivated me to study the language, culture, religion and history of a people whose inspirational history and growth has caused me not only to submerge myself in my own learning, but also to give back to this wonderful community as an educator, and eventually to come to live in Israel.

I credit Professor Rutland with the direct encouragement to begin a Master of Teaching degree, specifically in the fields of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. Despite my coming from a non-Jewish background, Professor Rutland showed me the importance of Jewish education in Australia, and motivated me to strive to study, learn and better my knowledge before becoming an educator in one of the most rewarding fields of my life – my thanks to Professor Rutland.

Adam Carpenter

I am currently teaching in the Jewish Studies Department at Emanuel School. I completed my final practicum at Emanuel School in 1999 and have been teaching there since 2000. Prior to becoming a teacher, I was a madrich in Netzer and taught at NSTE’s Hebrew and Religion school. During my years as a teacher I have taught primary and High School students, overseen Jewish Studies and Jewish Life at the school and have been acting Deputy Principal Jewish Life. I first met Suzanne when I was enrolled at Macquarie Uni and began taking additional courses at the University of Sydney. My hope was to continue to be involved in Jewish Education post youth movement. With Suzanne and Sydney University, through the Jewish Civilisation courses and the pedagogy courses for Jewish educators, this was my first taste of tertiary Jewish learning and I was inspired by Suzanne’s knowledge and passion for Jewish education and history. Suzanne nurtured and guided me to pursue my career in Jewish Education.
that has meant a great deal to me. Given me courage and support - and from other areas of the Jewish sometimes limited encouragement my columns, my social activism, my regularly over the years, regarding would send emails of encouragement areas in which I am involved. She guidance and support in the many advanced standing student. Since the Department of Education as an the past nine years, I have been School Programs Director for Jewish students in NSW and Victoria. Suzanne has supported me every step of the way, helping me navigate the complexities of university study and going out of her way to be available for guidance and encouragement. I would not have accomplished what I have so far without her help.

Suzanne has always supported me in my endeavours, moving mountains so that I could be accepted into the Department of Education as an advanced standing student. Since then I have been aware of her quiet guidance and support in the many areas in which I am involved. She would send emails of encouragement regularly over the years, regarding my columns, my social activism, my speaking engagements. In the face of sometimes limited encouragement from other areas of the Jewish community, Suzanne has consistently given me courage and support - and that has meant a great deal to me.

Lisa Inberg

I commenced my career as a teacher of Jewish History, Jewish Studies and History at the Emanuel School, Sydney in July 2010. I then worked as High School Coordinator at the Board of Education (BJE), during which time I coordinated, facilitated and led two Israel programs, developed curriculum, provided outreach programmes and headed camps for Jewish students in NSW and Victoria. Since 2013, I have lived and worked in New York City, where I taught first at RAVSAK, and now at The Heschel School as a high school social studies teacher and currently teach about the Israel/Palestine conflict and comparative religions.

Professor Rutland made an impact on the choices I have made throughout my career as an educator, through her encouragement and guidance. An experience that affected me strongly occurred during an Israeli-Palestine lecture, where she demonstrated her amazing respect for the right of all to be heard, yet forcefully but objectively presented the side of Israel.

Samantha Kavonic

I immigrated to Australia in 1996 with the intention of studying Occupational Therapy. Suzanne was instrumental in helping me change careers through a wonderful opportunity to study primary education at Sydney University and major in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. I was privileged to have Suzanne as a superb lecturer in Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture as well as Judaic Studies Method.

Throughout my studies, she was an outstanding mentor and teacher. Her passion and commitment to Jewish Education in Sydney was so inspirational that I was able to enrich my teaching experience by a year of study in Israel with the help of the Bella and Lazer Fine scholarship. Suzanne provided me with an outstanding knowledge base and equipped me with the tools to become a Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher at Moriah College Primary School where I have been employed since 2004.

Rachel Kleiner

I completed a major in Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture at Sydney University in 2003. Suzanne’s dedication to her students was apparent throughout the course. I wish Suzanne the best of luck for the future.

Sara Tova Yaffe

I have been studying ancient and modern Jewish History as well as Holocaust to high school students in a course that reflects the Jewish Civilisation syllabus developed by Suzanne and on which I drew for information and inspiration. She has encouraged me in my pursuit of Jewish Studies since I was a teenager, and I hope one day to continue my research in Jewish Studies at a postgraduate level. I wish Suzanne all the very best in her future endeavours, and thank her for the many hours she spent with me giving advice and assistance in my work and research.

Benjy Simons

The recent completion of a Diploma of Languages as part of my teaching qualifications has sparked my interest in Hebrew Grammar and its application to the Biblical text. Although I have studied in Yeshivot both domestic and abroad, it is only through the teachers at Sydney University that I feel my eyes have been opened to language structure and meaning. Furthermore Sydney University has taught me specific instructional methods for teaching Jewish Studies, enabling the continued transmission of Torah in an efficient and effective manner. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Rutland for making these educational opportunities available: they have impacted and benefited the entire Sydney community, most importantly the Jewish education of our children.

Aviva Winton

I have been teaching ancient and modern Jewish History as well as Holocaust to high school students in a course that reflects the Jewish Civilisation syllabus developed by Suzanne and on which I drew for information and inspiration. She has encouraged me in my pursuit of Jewish Studies since I was a teenager, and I hope one day to continue my research in Jewish Studies at a postgraduate level. I wish Suzanne all the very best in her future endeavours, and thank her for the many hours she spent with me giving advice and assistance in my work and research.
Mitchell James Cleaver

My first exposure to the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies was Holocaust: History and Aftermath. This subject encouraged students to engage academically as well as personally with the experiences of those in the past. Professor Rutland’s approach, and her eagerness to share her wealth of knowledge with us, meant the subject was one of the most enjoyable and moving of my undergraduate studies. Her love for her students and her work were the most enjoyable and moving of my undergraduate studies. Suzanne has always been an inspiration through her kindness, patience, and dedication to the Jewish community.

Ariane Schneider

Enrolling in Suzanne’s course was at the time, something I did for me, without any particular intention to work in Jewish education. I found the course to be totally inspirational. As well as educating me on a personal level, it inspired within me, a desire to give to the community and to become involved in Jewish Education. Since graduation I have worked both at Moriah college and in my current position at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Today I am part of the education team at the museum and am integrally involved in the education of the 20000 students we see at the museum every year. I teach and guide in both the ‘Judaism as a religion and a culture’, ‘Australian Jewish History’ and ‘Holocaust’ exhibition. In recent times, I have expanded my teaching role to include ‘Informal Jewish education’ through my involvement with the Jewish Women’s Renaissance project. Connecting people to Judaism, Jewish History, Jewish culture and Israel is my passion, my education, my work and my life. With warmest wishes and my gratitude to Suzanne on her retirement.

Rosie Hitchcock

I was privileged to be taught by Suzanne at the University of Sydney, graduating with a Bachelor of Education (Hons) / Bachelor of Arts in 2012. Currently I am a Secondary English Teacher at Georges River College – Oatley Senior Campus, a government school located in the Southern Suburbs of Sydney. Suzanne’s impact on both my development as a teacher and as a person is immeasurable. Her commitment to peace and her true desire to see every one of her students succeed are now the cornerstones of my own teaching philosophy. Suzanne has empowered me to be a bold teacher, confronting prejudice in the classroom and beyond. In one particular case, the lessons I learnt from Suzanne helped me transform a class that openly espoused antisemitic views to one that challenged antisemitism in the school. I hope that I, too, can do Suzanne’s legacy justice.

Clementine Churchhill

I am very grateful to have had Suzanne as a lecturer, tutor and mentor during my years of academic study at the University of Sydney. Suzanne was an inspirational teacher and I always looked forward to my tutorials and lectures with her. Suzanne never hesitated to help students, including myself, in whatever way she could, even if it meant answering emails in the middle of the night. Thanks to Suzanne I developed persuasive argument skills, an investigative attitude and a readiness to always listen to both sides of an argument. Thanks to her, I also have a depth of knowledge about a culture that I never thought I would have. Suzanne inspired me to take Jewish Civilisation as my major in my degree and for that I will be forever grateful. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have played a small part in her enormous contribution to Jewish education.

Nikki Jankelowitz

My name is Nikki Jankelowitz (nee Dunn) and I graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Arts (Modern Hebrew and Psychology) from the University of Sydney. Although I had learned Hebrew at school, it wasn’t until I lived in Israel during my gap year that I truly saw the language come to life and appreciated its practical application. I took up Modern Hebrew at university and immediately fell in love with the department, the teachers, and the community around it. It gave me a sense of familiarity and belonging in the otherwise clinical environment that is the University campus. I have since been on various educational and leadership programs in Israel both as a participant and as a leader, and worked professionally in the community at Hillel, The Shalom Institute. Suzanne has always been an inspiration through her kindness, patience, and dedication to the Jewish community.

Rabbi David Freedman

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Nathan Compton

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Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies

Professor Suzanne Rutland
Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies

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