

MEET OUR FACULTY

Temple Israel takes great pride in hiring qualified faculty who have experience in the fields of Judaism, Jewish education, teaching and learning.



Robin Kahn

Director of Education & Teen Engagement

Robin Kahn joined our leadership team in 2015. Prior to her arrival at Temple Israel, Robin served as the Director of Education at Congregation Beth Am Israel in Penn Valley, PA. Robin has also held educational leadership positions at Temple Emunah in Lexington, Congregation Beth Israel in Andover, and Keshet in Newton. A native of Bethesda, MD, Robin earned a BA and MA from Brandeis University in Modern Jewish History and an EdM from Harvard University in Learning and Teaching. She has participated in many certificate programs including the HUC-JTS Leadership Program, the Mandel Teacher Educator Institute, and is currently a fellow in the Institute for Experiential Jewish Education's Senior Educators' Cohort. In her free time, Robin enjoys getting lost in a good book, exercising and spending time with her family.

Michelle Nelson

Kindergarten - Kitah Gan

Michelle Nelson teaches our kindergarten (kitah gan) students and also is Temple Israel's Youth Programming Coordinator. In her role at TI, Michelle connects children of all ages to the synagogue community and plans programs for them to build their own community of peers. Michelle teaches science in the Framingham middle schools, and spends the summers at Pilgrim Day Camp. In her free time, Michelle enjoys mini golfing, reading and spending time with her dog Swiffer.

Joanne Camann

Grade 1 - Kitah Alef

Joanne Camann is our 1st grade (kitah alef) teacher, and also teaches 1st grade at the MetroWest Jewish Day School in Framingham. Joanne brings her love of singing and of athletics to the classroom. Joanne is an

avid biker and swimmer and lives on the banks of the Charles River in Needham with her husband, and two children.

Margie Matross
Kitah Bet/Grade 2

Margie Matross teaches 2nd grade (kitah bet) and has been teaching at Temple Israel since 2000. Margie teaches at the Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton, and spends the summers at Grossman Day Camp. Margie's excitement at watching young children connect with their Jewish identity is only matched by her excitement over baking and gardening. She and her husband, Dubi Gordon, live in Natick and raised their adult children at Temple Israel.

Elana Berelowitz
Grade 3 - Kitah Gimel

Elana Berelowitz teaches 3rd grade (kitah gimel), and has been teaching in the Religious School since 2001. She also works in the Natick Public Schools as a paraprofessional for children with severe special needs. She spends summers teaching art at Grossman Day Camp and brings this creativity to her classroom at Temple Israel. Elana, her husband Saul, and their 2 sons, are members of Temple Israel and live in Natick.

Marsha Horovitz
Grade 4 - Kitah Dalet

Marsha Cerel-Horovitz teaches Temple Israel's 4th grade (kitah dalet) students. Marsha holds a degree in special education and spent many years as a special educator in Providence, RI, working with medically fragile students and with students on the autism spectrum. She also teaches at the Religious School at Temple Emanu-El in Providence and recently moving to Framingham.

Diana Weinstein
Grade 4 and 5 - Kitah Dalet and Kitah Hey (Hebrew)

Diana teaches Temple Israel's 4th grade (kitah dalet) students. Diana holds an M.A. in Education from Simmons College and in recent years has taught Kindergarten and grade 3 in the Westwood and Framingham Public Schools. She is a graduate of the TI Religious School, and brings her love of this community with her into the classrooms each week. In her free time Diana enjoys cooking.

Avital Brauner-Pell

Grade 4 and 5 - Kitah Dalet and Kitah Hey (Judaics)

Avital (Tali) is returning for her 3rd year teaching 5th grade (kitah hey) students. Tali has been a teacher in both public and independent schools in Massachusetts and Maryland. She holds an M.A. in Teaching and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and has taught at Solomon Schechter Day Schools, private schools and religious schools. Tali attended the Judy Gordon Nursery School and TI Religious School as a child, and is excited to be back in the community with her twin daughters and husband.

Hilary Henninger

Kitah Vav & Kitah Zayin - Grades 6 & 7

Hilary Henninger teaches grades 6 and 7 in our religious school, and also teaches middle and high school English in the Boston Public Schools. After graduating from Gann Academy, Hilary spent a year in Israel on Young Judea's year course. She studied Arabic and Hebrew at Binghamton University and received her M.A. in Early Childhood Education and Deaf Education at Gallaudet University. She and her wife live in Watertown, MA. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, biking, and hiking.

Gerald Frim

Kitah Zayin - Grade 7

Gerald Frim teaches grade 7 in our religious school. Gerry joins our faculty after 8 years of teaching at Temple Aliyah and Temple Reyim, where he is now the Senior USY Advisor. A Newton native and proud graduate of Hebrew College and the University of Pennsylvania, Gerry spends his weekdays as an attorney, and lived in Israel doing non-profit development work for four years. Gerry lives in Newton with his family and enjoys Israeli music, his volunteer work with Ethiopian-Israelis, and spending time with his two year old granddaughter.

Sarah Wintman

Madrichim (Teen Aide) Program Coordinator

Sarah coordinates our teen volunteer program and is also a classroom aide. She is a therapist at the School for the Deaf in Southborough. Sarah's Jewish youth group experience and Israel travel experience motivate her to help Temple Israel teens stay engaged in Jewish life.

We also look forward to introducing you to our aides and assistant teachers:

Rachel Rogers - Education Office and Religious School Communications

Jo Rothman - Grade K

Cheryl Strunsky - Grade 1

Lisa Clover - Grade 2

Ketene Arante - Grade 3

Leslie Grossman - Grade 4