



Lower School Faculty Biographies 2011-12

PRINCIPAL:

Gail Freeman, M.Ed.
Lower School Principal
gfreeman@tarbut.com x 1115
Employed by TVT since 2011

Gail Freeman comes to TVT by way of the Associated Hebrew Schools in Toronto, Canada, where she had served as Vice Principal since 2003 and as Head of Guidance and Special Education prior to that. Mrs. Freeman also has experience as a Hebrew teacher and social worker, in addition to having served as a principal for the Boys Town School in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she spearheaded many new and innovative programs. Mrs. Freeman holds two Bachelor's degrees, one in Hebrew and Sociology and a second in Social Work from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, where she also earned a Master's of Education in School Counseling. Additionally, Mrs. Freeman holds a Post Graduate Teaching Diploma from Zlotnik Avida Hebrew Teachers Seminary in Johannesburg; a Diploma in Reflective Education from Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Principal Certification from York University, Toronto; and is a Graduate of the International Holocaust Seminar in Yad Vashem, Israel.

KINDERGARTEN

Eti Bezalel, A.A.
Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Teacher
ebezalel@tarbut.com x 2901
Employed by TVT since 1991

Mrs. Bezalel received her degree in accounting at Michlala L'minhal College in Tel Aviv, Israel. She pursued her career in accounting until moving to California, where she was employed by TVT. Her love for teaching motivated her to return to school, where she accomplished her teaching certification in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Bezalel has been teaching at TVT in a variety of teaching positions. She began at TVT as a Hebrew teacher tutoring children in small

groups outside of the mainstream class. Mrs. Bezalel was part of the Second Grade Hebrew team and participated in the TAL-AM pilot program. She also served as TVT's Israeli dance troupe director and choreographer for the younger students. Mrs. Bezalel currently teaches Kindergarten and was responsible for creating and implementing the Hebrew curriculum for the Kindergarten. This curricular foundation continues to contribute to TVT's successful and enjoyable Kindergarten program today. The years spent at TVT have been an invaluable experience in understanding the importance of teaching the Hebrew language and Jewish heritage.

Sandy Bruss, B.A.

General Studies Teacher

sbruss@tarbut.com x 2903

Employed by TVT since 1996

2008 California Teacher of the Year Finalist

After graduating from the University of Cape Town (U.C.T.), South Africa in 1981 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Mrs. Bruss worked as a fourth grade teacher for three years. Her interest in children with special needs took her back to U.C.T., where she qualified as a Special Education teacher focusing on children with learning disabilities. After immigrating to Philadelphia in 1986, Mrs. Bruss taught pre-school and second grade until she earned her Pennsylvania Teaching License. She also worked in a psychology practice, tutoring children with learning disabilities. Her husband's work brought the Bruss family to Irvine in 1992. While raising their three boys, Mrs. Bruss obtained her California Teaching Credential from Cal State Long Beach, took graduate courses at Cal State, Fullerton, and substituted in the Irvine Unified School District. Mrs. Bruss has been teaching Kindergarten since 1998, and has served as a mentor to many of our new teachers. Mrs. Bruss was a Disney Teacher Awards Nominee and was named as an Orange County 2008 Teacher-Of-The-Year finalist.

Keren Carroll, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

kcarroll@tarbut.com x 2971

Employed by TVT since 2005

Keren Carroll was born in Israel and moved to Los Angeles in 1990. In 2003 Mrs. Carroll received her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology with a minor in psychology from the University of California, Irvine. She continued her education at UCI and received her multiple subjects teaching credential as well as a Master of Arts degree in teaching. In 2005 Mrs. Carroll joined the TVT community and the kindergarten team. She is interested in early literacy development and likes to keep up-to-date on the latest research and information in this area. Mrs. Carroll is passionate about early childhood education and really enjoys the integration between General Studies and Hebrew Language/Jewish Studies at TVT's kindergarten program.

Nichole (Nicki) Christakes, B.A.

General Studies Assistant

nchristakes@tarbut.com x 2993

Employed by TVT since 2010

Ms. Christakes holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Literature, Culture and Language at UCLA. Nichole lived two years in Spain and had the opportunity to work as an assistant teacher in Spain with kindergarten, 3rd and 5th graders.

Caryn Neutel, B.A.

General Studies Teacher

cneutel@tarbut.com x 2920

Employed by TVT since 2004

Mrs. Neutel was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa where she graduated from the Teachers Training College with a Bachelor's degree in Education. She majored in languages, remedial tutoring and drama. At the same time, Mrs. Neutel qualified as a speech and drama teacher through the Trinity College of London by completing the ATCL and the LTCL. Mrs. Neutel taught at a public school in South Africa for five years where she headed the drama department. She also ran her own successful drama studio. In 1993, Mrs. Neutel came to the U.S. and accepted a position at TVT teaching third grade. While raising her family, she worked part time in elementary schools in Irvine. After her second child started school, Mrs. Neutel returned to teaching pre-school and began teaching drama again. She completed a reading course for which she was certified as a reading therapist. Mrs. Neutel returned to TVT in 2004 teaching Kindergarteners.

Meira Zargarof, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Teacher

mzargarof@tarbut.com x 2934

Employed by TVT since 1996

Mrs. Zargarof joined TVT in 1996 as a Hebrew/Jewish Studies teaching assistant. When the opportunity arose in 2004, she assumed the role of Kindergarten Hebrew/Jewish Studies teacher and has since made a wonderful contribution to the Kindergarten team. She discovered her love for teaching at a very young age and pursued her goal straight out of high school, joining the Teaching Boarding College (Tarbiyet Moalem) in Tehran, Iran. After teaching elementary school for 13 years in Iran, Mrs. Zargarof immigrated to Israel in 1979 as a result of the Islamic revolution. In order to teach in Israel, she attended the Seminar Ha'Morim Teachers College from 1980 to 1982 and received her teaching credentials in Israel. Mrs. Zargarof has also worked in several school districts as an English tutor for foreign students who were predominantly Persian and Israeli.

Nicole Levine

General Studies Assistant

nlevine@tarbut.com x 2990

Employed by TVT since 2007

Mrs. Levine arrived in the United States in 1986. She began her career in Early Childhood Education at Temple Bat Yahm, as an Associate Teacher, and worked there for 13 years. In 1989, Mrs. Levine fell in love with the field of Early Childhood Education. She has taken ECE classes and has participated in many workshops related to the field. Mrs. Levine is thrilled to be part of the Tarbut family!

GRADE 1

Susan (Sue) Batstone Applegate, B.A.

General Studies Teacher

sbatstone@tarbut.com x 4277

Employed by TVT since 2007

Sue Batstone Applegate joined TVT during the 2007-8 school years as a Kindergarten Teacher Assistant. Mrs. Applegate was promoted to teach Kindergarten for the 2008/9 school year. She has a multiple subject teaching credential from National University as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Mrs. Applegate began her career in early childhood education in 1985, and has over ten years of teaching experience. She is excited to begin co-teaching first grade for the 2011-12 school year.

Vickie Boshnack, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

vboshnack@tarbut.com x 2101

Employed by TVT since 1996

Mrs. Boshnack received her Bachelor's in Theater Arts from the University of Massachusetts, a certificate of completion in Broadcast Journalism from Northeast Broadcasting School, and her Teaching Credential and Master's of Arts Degree in Education, with a focus in Technology, from Alliant International University. Mrs. Boshnack has successfully used her knowledge of theater and of technology to captivate, educate, and inspire students across grade levels and within multiple subject areas. Mrs. Boshnack heads up the Midot/Values program and has served as a mentor to many of our new teachers. She is a member of the International Society for Technology in Education and the Foundation for Critical Thinking. Mrs. Boshnack was a Disney Teacher Awards Nominee and was selected to be in Who's Who Among American Teachers.

Michelle Lazerson, B.A.

General Studies Teacher

mlazerson@tarbut.com x. 1120

Employed by TVT since 1993

Mrs. Lazerson earned her degree in Psychology from California State University, Fullerton and then completed her Professional Clear Credential from Chapman University. Mrs. Lazerson has taught in both public schools and private Jewish day schools, specializing in Math, Science and Computers over the past 20 years. She began her career at TVT in 1993 developing and implementing an inquiry-based Science program for grades K-8 and in 1995-1996 led TVT through its first WASC accreditation as the site coordinator. Mrs. Lazerson returned to TVT as the Math Specialist in 2006, and in 2008 she brought her new and exciting ideas into the Lower School Curriculum Coordinator position. She recently worked in overseeing the coordination of the 2009 CAIS/WASC Accreditation.

Ifat Meltzer, B. A.

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Teacher

imeltzer@tarbut.com x 2102

Employed by TVT since 1991

Mrs. Meltzer graduated from Seminar Hakibutzim (an extension of Tel-Aviv University) in 1986, where she specialized in Special Education, focusing on children with Downs Syndrome and Learning Disabilities. She went on to complete courses in Music Therapy, using this as a medium to tutor children with special needs. From 1986-1989 Mrs. Meltzer worked with the School District for Special Education in Israel. Mrs. Meltzer joined TVT in 1991 as a Hebrew/Jewish Studies Teacher for Kindergarten and 1st Grade. Mrs. Meltzer developed a special Kindergarten program, incorporating music, dance and other creative ways, to encourage the children to learn the Hebrew language and their heritage in a highly engaging manner. In 1992, she taught full-time in the Kindergarten and remained in that position until 2004 when she joined the 1st grade teaching team.

Alyssa Grant, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

agrant@tarbut.com x 2966

Employed by TVT since 2005

Before arriving at TVT, Ms. Grant worked in the Ocean View School District as a substitute teacher during the 2004-2005 school year. Ms. Grant joined TVT at the beginning the 2005-2006 school year as a Kindergarten Teaching Assistant and the Kindergarten Computer Specialist. In her second year at TVT, Ms. Grant began her new position as a First Grade General Studies teacher. She has a Master's of Arts in Teaching from UC Irvine, where she also earned her CLAD California Certified Teaching Credential. Ms. Grant has her Bachelor's degree from the UC Riverside in Liberal Studies, emphasizing Business and Economics with a Minor in German. Before joining TVT, Ms. Grant traveled extensively throughout the world, and brings her knowledge and understanding of different languages and cultures to the classroom.

Lorraine Forman

General Studies Assistant

lforman@tarbut.com x 2992

Employed by TVT since 2007

Mrs. Forman emigrated from South Africa in 1997. She began working at the Jewish Community Center Preschool in 1998, and after one year, became a special needs facilitator, attending several workshops in special needs. In 2000, she began working at Temple Bat Yahm Preschool, first as a special needs facilitator, and then as an associate teacher. She was employed at TBY for seven years. Mrs. Forman has also been studying at a local community college, achieving early childhood education units, and she plans to further her studies.

Dorit Foyerlicht

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Assistant

dfoyerlicht@tarbut.com x 2942

Employed by TVT since 2003

Mrs. Foyerlicht attended the University of Haifa in Israel. She has been involved in childhood education for over 10 years, having worked at the Hebrew Academy, Montessori, and B'nai Israel before arriving at Tarbut V'Torah. Mrs. Foyerlicht finds inspiration and gratification in assisting students in the development of their Jewish education.

Sharon Herson

General Studies Assistant

sherson@tarbut.com x 2915

Employed by TVT since 2000

Since arriving from South Africa in 1986, Mrs. Herson has worked in the field of Early Childhood Education and has dedicated herself to working with children in a warm Jewish environment. Prior to arriving at TVT, Mrs. Herson worked for two years at Chabad Preschool and six years at Temple Bat Yahm Preschool as a Teacher's Assistant. Mrs. Herson joined the Tarbut faculty in 2000, and has been a valuable faculty member, assisting in Kindergarten, First and Second Grade classrooms.

GRADE 2

Sharon Carpe, B.A.

General Studies Teacher

scarpe@tarbut.com x 2106

Employed by TVT since 1994

Mrs. Carpe earned a Bachelor's from UC Los Angeles in Sociology, with double minors in Psychology and English. She received a California Life Credential (Grades K-9), after working with renowned educators at the UCLA Laboratory School, as well as in an inner city setting in Los Angeles. She has experience as a classroom instructor and master teacher in elementary grades (traditional and fundamental magnet schools) in the Los Angeles Unified and Irvine Unified School Districts. In addition, Mrs. Carpe has received training in guidance counseling and has years of experience acting as an advocate for children facing academic challenges. She has completed graduate level courses in educational technology and has participated in the UCI Writing Program.

Sara Goldstein, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature/Jewish Studies Teacher

sgoldstein@tarbut.com x 2105

Employed by TVT since 1992

Mrs. Goldstein taught for eight years in Israeli elementary schools before coming to the United States. Mrs. Goldstein has been a 1st and 2nd grade Hebrew/Jewish Studies teacher at TVT since 1992. Since 2002, she has been serving as a pilot teacher at TVT for the adoption of the new comprehensive Hebrew/Jewish Studies program, TAL-AM. Mrs. Goldstein has done an exceptional job and has been cited by the TAL-AM publishers as among the best pilot teachers in the system. Mrs. Goldstein has also served as TVT's Israeli dance troupe director and choreographer. Building on a long history of classical ballet teaching as well as on active participation in an Israeli dance troupe both as a dancer and a technical trainer, Mrs. Goldstein has guided our students to identify with Israeli culture and youth by creating colorful and joyful dance performances. The troupe performed very successfully in a variety of indoor and outdoor venues, including the 55-Year Celebration of Israel Independence Day and The Hanukkah Celebration in the prestigious Orange County Performing Art Center.

Megan Kelso, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

mmoorehead@tarbut.com x 2911

Employed by TVT since 2010

Megan Kelso received her Bachelor of Arts, with majors in Psychology and Social Behavior, and a Minor in Educational Studies from the University of California, Irvine in 2006. She received her Masters of Arts in Teaching from the University of California, Irvine in 2008. Prior to joining TVT, Mrs. Kelso taught at Wespark and Brywood Elementary Schools in Irvine. Her commitment and energy will be of tremendous benefit to our school.

Marion Meyers

General Studies Assistant

mmeyers@tarbut.com x 2931

Employed by TVT since 2004

Mrs. Meyers received her Teaching degree in South Africa, in 1962. Mrs. Meyers' extensive background with children spans over 30 years. She taught 3rd Grade for four years, and then spent three years as an elementary level art teacher. After immigrating to the United States, she continued working with children by running a tennis clinic and then joining the Irvine Unified School District. After 17 years with the IUSD as a classroom assistant and librarian, in addition, she has been a private tutor for the past seven years. She joined TVT in 2004 as a 2nd grade assistant.

Cindy Moskowitz, B.S.

General Studies Assistant

cmoskowitz@tarbut.com x 2948

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mrs. Moskowitz received her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Development at UC Davis, and then completed her Paralegal Certificate at UC Los Angeles. Mrs. Moskowitz has worked continuously with children over the past 13 years. She taught pre-school at the JCC for two years. She then received her Emergency Credential in Elementary Education and substituted in the Irvine School District for a year, until joining TVT. She continues to take classes toward her teaching credential and currently works as a second grade assistant.

Taly Paz

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Assistant

tpaz@tarbut.com x 2962

Employed by TVT since 2005

Mrs. Paz has worked in education for 18 years, graduating from Kibbutzim College in Tel Aviv, Israel, where she earned her Bachelor in General Education and teaching certificate. Mrs. Paz also studied at Teacher College of Arts in Tel-Aviv, Israel. Upon graduation, she worked as an elementary school teacher in Tel Aviv. Mrs. Paz served in the Israeli Defense Forces for two years and exited the Army as a Sergeant. TVT is excited Mrs. Paz will be joining us for another wonderful school year.

GRADE 3

Ilyce Adele, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

iadele@tarbut.com x 2941

Employed by TVT since 2008

Ms. Adele joins our faculty as a credentialed teacher with a Master's degree in Elementary Curriculum from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from California State University, Long Beach. She comes to TVT with fourteen years of classroom experience in second through eighth grades, including the Invent America Program, the South Basin Writing Program, and Summer Math Institute.

Michal Bar, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Assistant

mbar@tarbut.com x 2961

Employed by TVT since 2010

Mrs. Bar has many years working with children. Mrs. Bar was born in Israel where she attended Tel-Hai Academic College, receiving a Bachelor's degree in Education. Mrs. Bar is a very dedicated goal-driven professional, who brings a solid commitment to the social and academic growth and development of each of our students.

Robin Bleiweiss, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

rbleiweiss@tarbut.com x 2965

Employed by TVT since 2005

Ms. Bleiweiss joined TVT in the middle of the 2004-2005 school year. Ms. Bleiweiss worked for the Anaheim City School District for two years and substitute taught in the Orange Unified School District, Magnolia School District and Anaheim School District for an additional two years prior to assuming her position at TVT. She received her Bachelor's in History from California State University at Fullerton and earned her California Multiple Subject Teaching Credential with CLAD Emphasis through Chapman University. Additionally, she holds a Supplemental Teaching Authorization in Social Studies. Ms. Bleiweiss also has completed her Master's Degree in Education through Chapman. In addition to her other teaching duties, Robin is the designer and editor of the Lower School yearbook.

Sheila Siegel, B.S.

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Teacher

ssiegel@tarbut.com x 2958

Employed by TVT since 1997

Mrs. Siegel has been on TVT's Hebrew/Jewish Studies faculty since 1997. She is a versatile teacher who has taught Kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade during her tenure. Mrs. Siegel earned a Bachelor of Science at the University of Colorado, Boulder in Education, and taught at Theodore Herzl Jewish Day School in Denver, Colorado. When she married she moved to California. Here, Mrs. Siegel taught Kindergarten at Stephen S. Wise Day School in Los Angeles,

in an integrated General-Jewish Studies curriculum. Mrs. Siegel has traveled to Montreal numerous times to participate in writing the Tal Am Pilot Program and implementing it in 3rd grade. She was invited to be a mentor teacher for other 3rd grade teachers throughout the world, teaching them how to implement the Tal Am Hebrew program in their classroom. In addition, Mrs. Siegel earned a Hebrew teaching credential from the Bureau of Jewish Education, in Colorado and California.

Flavia Berni, B.A.

General Studies Assistant

fberni@tarbut.com x 2916

Employed by TVT since 1995

Ms. Berni has a Bachelor's degree from Borgotaro, Italy and has a California State Certification for Private and Post Secondary Vocational Education. Before joining TVT, she was an instructional assistant, and prior to that, Ms. Berni facilitated tutorial services in English Language Development in Europe. Every summer, Ms. Berni assesses students for language competency through the Irvine Unified School District. Ms. Berni has instructed language development from the pre-literate stages to advanced vocational levels. She has a California English Language Development Test Certification. Ms. Berni has served as a certified language instructor since 1996. She teaches ESL and Italian to adults. In the past, Ms. Berni has taught extra curricular Spanish to Irvine students. She also has experience in Special Education, has worked for the Department of Veteran Affairs, performing tutorial services for military personnel actively enrolled in a college or university. She has served as a simultaneous verbal interpreter and performed written translations. Ms. Berni has been part of the development of the ESL Program here at TVT and facilitates the Extended Care Program on site.

Joyce Cover, B.S.

General Studies Assistant

jcover@tarbut.com x 4204

Employed by TVT since 2002

Mrs. Cover holds a Bachelor of Science from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. Her background includes eight years of employment with Irvine Unified School District at the elementary school level in Resource and Special Education.

GRADE 4

Sandra Cabouat, B.A.

General Studies Teacher

scabouat@tarbut.com x 2925

Employed by TVT since 2007

Ms. Cabouat received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies/Elementary Education from Cal State Fullerton. In October 2006, she completed a 9-month research project involving Inclusive Education Studies overseas and received a post-graduate certificate in Professional Studies in Education for her work. She is currently continuing toward her Master's Degree in Education. With eight years of experience in elementary school settings, Ms. Cabouat comes to TVT from the American School in Paris, where she worked first as an administrator and later as a fourth grade teacher. While at the American School, she planned, implemented, and assessed fourth grade curriculum according to international school standards. She is delighted to teach after school enrichment classes and to be a part of the Lower School General Studies team at TVT.

Nicole Fierle, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

nfierle@tarbut.com x 4273

Employed by TVT since 2008

Nicole Fierle earned her multiple subject teaching credentials and a Bachelor's of Arts from California State University, Long Beach. With five years of teaching experience, Ms. Fierle comes to Tarbut as a 4th grade teacher where critical thinking strategies have been interwoven as a core component of her teaching. Over the past two years, she coached a Math Field Day for 4th and 5th graders, and organized an all school Spirit Week. Ms. Fierle also has her Master's in Teaching/National Board Certification from National University.

Amit Nelik, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Teacher

anelik@tarbut.com x 2953

Employed by TVT since 1992

Mrs. Nelik earned her Bachelor's degree in Jewish Studies from Spertus College of Judaica in Chicago. Mrs. Nelik has been teaching Hebrew for 30 years and has been with TVT since its inception (1992). She has been involved in developing the curriculum, writing her own supplemental teaching materials and adjusting the program to various class levels. Since 2005, she has served as a pilot teacher at TVT for the adoption of the new comprehensive Hebrew/Jewish Studies program, TAL-AM. In 1996, Mrs. Nelik was selected as a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Foreign Language Fellow. Since 2001, Mrs. Nelik has also been involved with adult education, teaching Hebrew at Saddleback College.

Katherine (Kathi) Kopp, B.A.

General Studies Assistant

kkopp@tarbut.com x 2939

Employed by TVT since 2005

Ms. Kopp received her B.A. in Physical Education, and then lived overseas for many years. After returning, she continued her education, earning her teaching credential. Ms. Kopp has worked with children in the recreation area for over 20 years. She has been at TVT since 2005.

Jaffa Pinchas

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Assistant

jpinchas@tarbut.com x 4276

Employed by TVT since 2007

Ms. Pinchas was born and raised in Jerusalem, Israel, and moved to the United States in 1978. Ms. Pinchas taught Hebrew, on a part time basis, preparing children for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. Because she enjoys working with children and because of her strong belief and love for her Jewish heritage, she joined TVT as a Hebrew/Jewish Studies Teacher Assistant. Ms. Pinchas also teaches part time at Temple Shir Ha Ma'alot.

GRADE 5

Margaret Corr, B.A.

General Studies Assistant

mcorr@tarbut.com x 2930

Employed by TVT since 2010

Ms. Corr received her BA Sociology from California State University at Long Beach in 2007 and worked for Long Beach Unified District as an Instructional Aid. Ms. Corr was also a substitute teacher with grades K-6. She has a passion for learning and sharing her enthusiasm at TVT.

Michal Daniel-Greenberg

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Assistant

mbar@tarbut.com x 2932

Employed by TVT since 2010

Ms. Daniel-Greenberg received her Associate of Arts degree in Internet Technology from Foothill College, Los Altos Hills, California. Her past experiences and sincere dedication will greatly benefit our students.

Sarit Livnat, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature / Jewish Studies Teacher

slivnat@tarbut.com x 2917

Employed by TVT since 1993

Mrs. Livnat joined TVT in 1992 as a Kindergarten teaching assistant. In 2000 she was offered a position as a 3rd grade teacher. Since then, she has taught 3rd and 6th grades at TVT. Prior to her TVT experience, she taught Kindergarten in Kibbutz Nir-Oz in Israel for 14 years. Mrs. Livnat was trained in parent-child communication at Adler Institute in Israel. She was also a member of Nir-Oz's Board of Education and a voice in the Kibbutz's educational decisions during her career in Nir-Oz.

Christopher M. Rhodes

General Studies Teacher

crhodes@tarbut.com x 2912

Employed by TVT since 2010

Christopher Rhodes earned his multiple subjects teaching credential and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from California State University, Fullerton. Prior to joining TVT, Mr. Rhodes taught 4th through 8th graders at the Kline School in Costa Mesa. During that time Christopher mentored students in philanthropic activities that raised funds for UNICEF, Amazonian Ecological Preserve, and other local charities. His enthusiasm, creativity and dedication make him an excellent addition to our faculty.

Elizabeth Stone, M.A.

General Studies Teacher

estone@tarbut.com x 2989

Employed by TVT since 2008

Elizabeth Stone received her multiple subjects teaching credential and Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from California State University Long Beach. She taught various grades, which include Kindergarten, 2nd, 8th, and most recently 5th grade. She received her Master of Arts in Teacher Leadership and Curriculum in 2009 and plans to apply for her National Board Certification this year. She is actively involved as a scholarship advisor for her college sorority Sigma Kappa. She enjoys participating in all sports, especially volleyball! She strives for the best and creates only the highest standards for her students. She is looking forward to another fun, meaningful, and successful school year at TVT.

SPECIALISTS

Lili Babazadeh, B.S.

Math Specialist Assistant, Grades 1-5

lbabazadeh@tarbut.com x 4253

Employed by TVT since 2010

Ms. Babazadeh received her Bachelor of Science, in Business Administration from the California State University of Long Beach – California in 2006. She also received her multiple subject teaching credential from California State University of Long Beach. Her previous experience includes teaching Pre-School at Temple Bat Yahm and substitute teaching at TVT.

Julie Borkin, B.A.

Librarian Specialist, Grades K-5

jborkin@tarbut.com x 1131

Employed by TVT since 2010

Mrs. Borkin received her Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing / English from California State University Northridge in 1997 and her Library Service California Credential K-12 from California State University Long Beach. She brings with her a program that she started at previous schools called “Book Talks,” which promotes listening, speaking and literary analysis through the library collection.

Rocky Brown, B.A.

Music Specialist, Grades K-5

rbrown@tarbut.com x 2902

Employed by TVT since 1997

Rocky Brown is a graduate from the Manhattan School of Music in New York City. She was a piano performance major and studied in the Olga Samaroff Studio, under the guidance of Isabelle Yalkovsky Byman. In addition to this, Rocky studied Dalcroze Eurhythmics under Dr. Robert Abramson. She has taken all three levels of Orff Schulwerk educational training and is currently the executive Vice-President of the Orange County Orff Association, in charge of programming workshops to train music teachers in this process of music education. Ms. Brown also is a trained Kodaly teacher, specializing in vocal and choral ensemble work. She is active in the MTAC (Music Teacher Association of

California), wherein she heads the Irvine Branch of the “Cal Plan” which trains piano teachers and qualifies them to join the MTAC. Ms. Brown has been a private piano teacher for well over 20 years and has consistently taught piano students who have tested and passed the MTAC state standards. Ms. Brown is happy to share her love of music with the students at TVT!

Dorit Chelouche, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature Resource Specialist

dchelouche@tarbut.com x 2206

Employed by TVT since 1996

Mrs. Chelouche holds a Bachelor’s degree in Special Education and Criminology from Bar Ilan University in Israel. In addition, Mrs. Chelouche took multiple courses in which she specialized in teaching Hebrew as a second language. Mrs. Chelouche joined TVT in 1996 as a Hebrew teacher. Prior to joining TVT, she taught for six years in Tel Aviv, Israel, and for 13 years in Winnipeg, Canada. In her spare time, Mrs. Chelouche enjoys exercising, cooking, gardening, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Richard Cozzi, B.A.

Music Specialist, Grade 5 Guitar

rcozzi@tarbut.com x 2952

Employed by TVT since 2005

Mr. Cozzi currently teaches the guitar music elective designed for upper elementary students, while also teaching at Concordia University. He has over 25 years’ experience playing and teaching jazz, blues, rock, country and classical guitar. Additionally, Mr. Cozzi was a Course Instructor at Learning Tree University from 2002-2004 and taught in the Boston School System from 1979-1981. He received his Bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Maryland with graduate work at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Mr. Cozzi has also worked in the private sector as Director of Marketing, New England Region for Warner Cable as well as Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for Time Warner Cable in both their Los Angeles and Bakersfield Divisions.

Brent Dohling, M.A.

Physical Education Specialist, Grades K-5

bdohling@tarbut.com x 2950

Employed by TVT since 2010

Mr. Dohling earned his Bachelor of Arts in Exercise Sports Science from Concordia University in 2006 and his Master’s Degree in Coaching and Athletic Administration in 2009. In addition to his previous teaching experience at the New Horizon Elementary School, Mr. Dohling was a Baseball Coach for the varsity team at Aliso Niguel High School. As a teacher of physical education, Mr. Dohling will motivate his students to strive for a lifelong healthy lifestyle.

Julie Fricke, B.A.

Science Assistant, Grades 2-5

jfricke@tarbut.com x 2946

Employed by TVT since 2005

Mrs. Fricke earned her Bachelor's in Bacteriology, with an emphasis in Chemistry and Immunology. She earned her Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential (CLAD) from UC Irvine, with a Science Authorization. Mrs. Fricke is currently pursuing certification for GATE from Cal State, Fullerton. Upon UCLA graduation, Mrs. Fricke worked in a hematology/oncology laboratory at the UCLA School of Medicine, doing cancer research. While raising her three sons, Mrs. Fricke entered the teaching profession. She began by directing and teaching art programs in public schools. She went on to teach remedial math. Before coming to TVT, Mrs. Fricke taught eighth grade Chemistry and Physics. Mrs. Fricke spends her summers working with gifted students through the UCI Writing Project, teaching writing as well as math, pre-algebra, and science. Mrs. Fricke is currently the Primary Science Assistant. She has also acted as the Math Club Advisor, where students participate in the Math Olympiad, the Stock Market Game, and other activities designed to inspire the creative application of mathematical concepts.

Michelle Gordon

Art Assistant, Grades K-5

mgordon@tarbut.com x 2936

Employed by TVT since 2008

Mrs. Gordon has worked in the preschool and tutoring field for a number of years. She worked at TVT from 1993 – 1996 as an office receptionist. In addition, Mrs. Gordon has extensive experience in the real estate and dental fields. Her lifelong experiences in raising children, working in different environments, and her conscientious abilities are an asset to the students and the school.

Shendel Haimés, M.A.

Reading Specialist, Grades K-5

shaimés@tarbut.com x 2972

Employed by TVT since 2006

Mrs. Haimés joined TVT in 2006 as our Reading Specialist. She has been working as a Reading/Language Arts Specialist since 1972. She has participated in training programs, including Soar to Success, Reading Together U.S.A. and Reading Initiative. She also completed several in-service credits including Supervisory Skills, Teaching Children with Special Needs, Curriculum Development, Training of Trainers, Storytelling, Teaching Writing Using Museums, Corporate Management Techniques for Educational Leaders, and Mathematical Content Connections.

Alisa Kemnitz, M.A. CCC

Speech Specialist, Grades K-5

akemnitz@tarbut.com x 2978

Employed by TVT since 2010

Mrs. Kemnitz received her Bachelor of Arts in Education / Speech Pathology from the University of Florida, Gainesville and her Master of Arts in Speech & Hearing Sciences from the University of Miami, Coral Gables. She has more than 20 years of experience in classroom and private consultation. Mrs. Kemnitz possesses a positive attitude and strong work ethic. She welcomes new, challenging professional roles.

Sheila Lefkowitz, B.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature Resource Specialist

slefkowitz@tarbut.com x 2959

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mrs. Lefkowitz received her Bachelor's degree in Education from Kean College in New Jersey, where she also earned a Teaching Certificate. Additionally, she holds a Para-Rabbinic Certification from Temple Isaiah in Lafayette, California. Prior to joining TVT, Mrs. Lefkowitz worked for four years at Morasha Day School, six years in two area synagogue religious schools (Temple Bat Yahm and University Synagogue), and two years at the Solomon Schechter Day School in Lakewood, New Jersey. Mrs. Lefkowitz joined TVT in 1998, as a Hebrew/Jewish Studies teacher. She taught third grade for one year and then first grade, until 2004, when she left for a year-long sabbatical. Mrs. Lefkowitz returned to TVT in 2005, to provide Hebrew instruction for the 4th grade, as well as to new students coming in from the public schools. She also assumed responsibility for providing Hebrew instruction to mid-level students in first and second grade, and support to TVT's English language learners.

Linda Oaks, M.A.

Computer Technology Specialist, Grades 2-5

loaks@tarbut.com x 2905

Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Oaks has over 27 years of experience in education with a Master of Arts degree in Educational Technology from Azusa-Pacific University, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development from California State University at Northridge, and a California Life Multiple Subject Credential. She has presented at numerous conferences and is a member of the Orange County Computer Using Educators, the California Computer Using Educators, the International Society for Technology in Education, and the Constructivism Consortium. She has been recognized for excellence by the United States Congress, the California State Senate and Assembly, in addition to numerous other awards. Her publications on the subject of technology in education can be found in *Creative Educator Magazine*, *OnCUE Magazine* and *PC Teach It*.

Jean Oleson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D
Lower School Math Specialist
joleson@tarbut.com x 2935
Employed by TVT since 1997

Dr. Oleson earned her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with a Math minor from University of Northern Iowa. She received her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Michigan State University and her Doctorate in Educational Management from Angeles University Foundation, Philippines. Dr. Oleson started her career in education as a teacher of talented and gifted students and learning specialist both here and abroad. She was chosen to implement a talented and gifted program for children of Embassy, Air Force and civilians at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, the largest Air Force Base outside of the United States. She returned to the US and taught Middle School math and language arts at Yavneh Hebrew Academy in Los Angeles before settling in the OC. Dr. Oleson joined TVT as the math specialist in 1997, where she oversaw the lower school math department and made significant improvements to the program. In 2001, Dr. Oleson became Director of Curriculum for the lower school and co-chaired TVT's WASC accreditation. In January 2007, Dr. Oleson was named Interim Principal of the Lower School and in December 2007 she was named Principal. With her love of teaching, in August 2011 Dr. Oleson returned to the classroom as the K-5 Math Specialist and Liaison for Middle School Mathematics.

Riva Sapir, M.A.

Hebrew Language and Literature Resource Specialist
rsapir@tarbut.com x 2607

Employed by TVT since 2003

Mrs. Sapir joined TVT as a 4th grade Hebrew teaching assistant, a position that she held until the end of June 2007. Since fall of 2007, Mrs. Sapir has assumed the position of Hebrew Resource teacher in 3rd and 4th grades. Mrs. Sapir holds a Bachelor's degree in Social and Mathematical Sciences from Haifa University in Israel. She received a professional degree in Art Therapy-Education and Therapy through Creation and Expression in Plastic Arts. She received a Master's of Education from Haifa University, with a focus in Special Education.

Michael Seftel, B.A.

Science Specialist, Grades 2-5
mseftel@tarbut.com x 2956

Employed by TVT since 1997

Mr. Seftel received his Bachelor's of Arts from California State University, San Francisco, in History with a Special Education minor. He has done post graduate work at UC Los Angeles, and still proudly bleeds blue and gold. Mr. Seftel joined TVT in 1997, as the Elementary Science Specialist. He has been involved in a wide variety of educational experiences during his 30 years plus as an educator. He has taught in the public school system, at other Jewish day schools, and also at American schools abroad (Brazil, Peru, and England). In 2001, Mr. Seftel received a special fellowship award from Johns Hopkins University for his work with gifted and talented students. During the summer months, Mr. Seftel has worked for Johns Hopkins University as both an instructor at their CTY (Center

for Talented Youth) summer program, as well as a developer of curriculum for gifted and talented students. During his tenure at TVT, Mr. Seftel has been instrumental in introducing after school programs, such as FSEA (Future Scientists and Engineers of America), to enrich our students' educational experiences. He has also introduced innovative science curricular programs and kits from FOSS, AIMS, STC, and others to further students' interest and involvement with science. For his efforts in promoting science education in Orange County, Mr. Seftel has been honored by the Arnold Beckman Foundation as a leading educator in science.

Stephen Vespe, M.A.

Physical Education Specialist, Grades K-5

svespe@tarbut.com x 4224

Employed by TVT since 2002

Mr. Vespe joined TVT in 2002, with 26 years teaching experience. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Health, Drivers Education, and Physical Education from Glassboro State College in New Jersey. He then moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, where he taught for 22 years at both the high school and elementary level, coaching wrestling, football, track and softball. He represented the State of Nevada Wrestling Officials Association in such protégés' tournaments as the Sierra Nevada Classic, The Tournament of Champions, and the state finals in Nevada, New Jersey and Hawaii. While in Las Vegas, Mr. Vespe earned his Master's of Education in Health and Physical Education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Since 1983, he has been a Master Teacher, Teacher of the Month, and has worked with students who lived in at-risk areas. In 1999, he moved to Maui, teaching students who were chemically dependent. He completed a behavior management program before returning to the West Coast and joining TVT. Mr. Vespe has implemented a variety of physical education curricula since arriving at TVT, promoting physical and motor fitness, as well as positive social interaction among the students. Mr. Vespe is a member of the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, as well as the national chapter. He has recently completed his certifications in Coaching Principles, California Interscholastic Federation Rule Exam, CPR for the Professional Rescuer, Lifeguard Training, and First Aid.

Helaine Yeskel, B.A.

Art Specialist

hyeskel@tarbut.com x 2973

Employed by TVT since 2000

Mrs. Yeskel joined TVT in 2000, as the Art Specialist. A graduate of George Washington University, she took advantage of a dual-enrollment program that allowed her to supplement the strong academic backbone of the university, with the avant-garde instruction offered by the Corcoran School of Art. She is a member of the National and California Associations of Art Education, and attends many workshops in the areas of ceramics, printmaking, painting, and up to date research in the area of art education. She is also active with the Orange County Performing Arts Group, where she attended a Summer Institute on Building Literacy in the Classroom. The OCPA Program keeps Mrs. Yeskel educated on all visual and performing arts activities offered through the Center and around

Orange County, many of which have been brought to the school. Through the integration of the arts with core subjects in the curriculum, Mrs. Yeskel guides students to approach the visual arts with motivation, knowledge, and a keen sense of observation. This approach provides students with a greater confidence. Her years at TVT have earned her national and local recognition through the exhibitions of student artwork. Since 2000, Mrs. Yeskel has been on the Honor Roll of Teachers at the Laguna Arts Festival. Many of TVT's students were juried (among thousands) to participate in this prestigious show. Additionally, many of our students have participated in Youth Art Month in California, winning several awards. The Crayola Dream-Makers Competition has also awarded her three teacher recognition awards for her TVT students, who have been chosen to exhibit on a national level. Mrs. Yeskel has chaired many school wide events on campus. For the last several years, she has produced an All Student Art Show featuring every child in the school.