



## Middle School Faculty Biographies 2009-2010

### ART DEPARTMENT:

***Kevin Bachelder, M.M.***

***[kbachelder@tarbut.com](mailto:kbachelder@tarbut.com) x 4261***

***Employed by TVT since 2007***

Mr. Bachelder teaches and directs the Garage Band class. He is a recent recipient of a Master's Degree in Jazz Studies from the University of Southern California and he earned his Bachelor's Degree from the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Over a 25-year career, Mr. Bachelder has performed for David Bowie and Wayne Shorter as well as recently singing background vocals on a Capitol Records recording session with Steve Miller. He also performs regularly with his original project writing songs that inspire and contain grooves that are infectious.

***Justin Fuller, B.A.***

***[jfuller@tarbut.com](mailto:jfuller@tarbut.com) x 4210***

***Employed by TVT since 2006***

Mr. Fuller holds a Bachelor's degree in Ethnomusicology from Humboldt State University. Before coming to TVT, he taught ceramics at the JCC, and has additional experience as a private art instructor. Possessing a diverse skill set, Mr. Fuller teaches Middle School Art, Yoga and Digital Photography at TVT, while also working in oil, acrylic, charcoal, and mixed media. He is an advisor to the guitar club, member of a local band, and an avid surfer.

***Leah Trammer, B.A. (in progress)***

***[ltrammer@tarbut.com](mailto:ltrammer@tarbut.com) x 4267***

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Ms. Trammer has over 10 years experience as an art teacher, including work at The Open Democratic School in Haifa Israel, the Montessori Summit Private School in Boca Raton, Florida. Ms. Trammer attended the University of Haifa, Israel and holds a High School Teaching Certificate in Art History and Creative Art from the same university. She specializes in ceramics and pottery.

**Joseph Waldron, B.S.**

**[jwaldron@tarbut.com](mailto:jwaldron@tarbut.com) x 4214**

**Employed by TVT since 2008**

Mr. Waldron holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Salisbury University, Maryland and a Master of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences from San Diego State University. Before coming to TVT he was an adjunct professor of dance at Palomar College, in San Marcos California. He is also the founder and artistic director of Axxiom Dance Collective with more than 15 years experience in dance instruction.

#### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:**

**Linda Cooper, B.A.**

**[lcooper@tarbut.com](mailto:lcooper@tarbut.com) x 2913**

**Employed by TVT since 1996**

Ms. Cooper received her Bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and holds a California Teaching Credential (with additional graduate work) from at Cal State Fullerton in Education. Ms. Cooper has been a long-time English Department faculty member at TVT, who has been involved as the TVT newspaper advisor for Journalism students, as well as the student staff who produce the TVT Yearbook. Ms. Cooper is the Dean of Students in the Middle School.

**Craig Michalski, B.A.**

**[cmichalski@tarbut.com](mailto:cmichalski@tarbut.com) x 4208**

**Employed by TVT since 2007**

Mr. Michalski received his degree in English from Miami University. He went on to get certification in English from Cleveland State University and subsequently became a Johns Hopkins SDB fellow and participated in Stanford University's SPICE program. He has nineteen years experience as an English teacher, with 13 of those years in a middle school setting. He spent 4 years at The Harker School, a prestigious, independent school in San Jose, California, before joining the staff of Tarbut in 2007. Mr. Michalski teaches Middle School English at TVT and is a seventh grade team leader.

**Leighann Pennington, M.Ed.**

**[lpennington@tarbut.com](mailto:lpennington@tarbut.com) x 2910**

**Employed by TVT since 2007**

Ms. Pennington teaches sixth grade English and History. She has her Master's in Education from the University of Virginia where she had the privilege of working with a renowned educator in the field of Gifted Education. She received her Bachelor's in Creative Writing from Miami University. Continually active in her field, Ms. Pennington has presented papers at professional conferences on Innovative Programs for Gifted Students.

## HEBREW DEPARTMENT:

***Nirit Bracha, B.A.***

***[nbracha@tarbut.com](mailto:nbracha@tarbut.com) x 4055***

***Employed by TVT since 2005***

Mrs. Bracha earned her Bachelor's degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and received a Teaching Certificate for grades K-12 from Talpyot College, Israeli Ministry of Education. For the past two years, she has taught at TVT in both the Upper and Middle School.

***Gila David, B.A.***

***[gdavid@tarbut.com](mailto:gdavid@tarbut.com) x 2949***

***Employed by TVT since 2006***

Mrs. David has a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Teacher's Diploma from the Lewinsky College. She has taught all levels of Hebrew at TVT, joining us in the Upper School this fall.

***Jill Jacobs, M.A.***

***[jjacobs@tarbut.com](mailto:jjacobs@tarbut.com) x 2402***

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Formerly a middle school teacher at Sinai Akiba Academy, Los Angeles, California, Ms. Jacobs holds a Master of Arts in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, a B.A. in History from UCLA. In addition to teaching at Sinai Akiva, Ms. Jacobs has also served as the Education Director for the Holy Land Democracy Project at the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, Director of Jewish Education for the Merage Jewish Community Center, Jewish Programs Manager from the Peninsula Jewish Community Center in Foster City, California, an editor and writer for Jewish Family and Life! Media in Newton Massachusetts, the author of *Hebrew for Dummies* (Wiley & Sons; 2003) and the Judaic Coordinator for Morasha Jewish Day School in Aliso Viejo, California.

***Ruth Kelman, B.A.***

***[rkelman@tarbut.com](mailto:rkelman@tarbut.com) x 4234***

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Ms. Kelman will be joining TVT from Torah High Schools of San Diego, in La Jolla, California. Her prior experience has also included the "Batzav" Junior High School in Israel, Chabad Hebrew Academy, San Diego, and the High School of Jewish Studies (also in San Diego, California). Ms. Kelman served in the IDF as an Operation Officer for the Air Force Division and holds professional certification and a Bachelors of Education from Beth Berl College, Israel. Ms. Kelman has done additional studies through the University of California Extension, the Levinski State College for School Teachers, Bar Ilan University, and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel.

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT

**Paul Chaffey, B.A.**

[pchaffey@tarbut.com](mailto:pchaffey@tarbut.com) x 4268

**Employed by TVT since 2007**

Mr. Chaffey received his Bachelor's degree from Occidental College. In addition he holds a California Teaching Credential and has many years experience teaching Middle School through the California Public School system. At TVT, Mr. Chaffey teaches History, and is the Lead Teacher for the eighth grade.

**Carol Crane, B.A.**

[ccrane@tarbut.com](mailto:ccrane@tarbut.com) x 4248

**Employed by TVT since 2007**

Mrs. Crane has her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, International Relations and French Literature from UC Santa Barbara and earned her Clear Credential to teach Social Studies and French at UC Irvine. She taught Social Studies for the GATE (Gifted and Talented) students at Venado Middle School, Irvine for ten years and teaches 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Medieval History.

**Simon Fellowes, M.S.**

[sfellowes@tarbut.com](mailto:sfellowes@tarbut.com) x 4265

**Employed by TVT since 2008**

Mr. Fellowes comes to TVT from the public school system in Westminster, California. He has a Bachelor's in European History and English Literature from Northumbria University in Great Britain, and an MS from California State University, Fullerton. Additionally, Mr. Fellowes has a Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential. He gave one of the best model lessons our students and faculty have ever seen when he came to interview at TVT. He expertly combines technology, multi-media, and student-centered learning in his classroom teaching style. Mr. Fellowes will be teaching upper school History and the Middle East Conflict next year, and will be the teacher-coach for Mock Trial.

## JUDAIC STUDIES:

**Noah Hurvitz, M.A.**

[nhurvitz@tarbut.com](mailto:nhurvitz@tarbut.com) x 4255

**Employed by TVT since 2005**

Mr. Hurvitz received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from UC Irvine, followed by a Master of Arts in Education, with a Baccalaureate of Literature in Hebrew Letters from the University of Judaism, Los Angeles. Drawing from over a decade of experience in academia, Mr. Hurvitz teaches Judaic Studies in the Middle School. Prior to coming to TVT, Mr. Hurvitz served as the Director of Education for the Shir Chadash Conservative Congregation, Louisiana.

**Jill Jacobs, M.A.**

**[jjacobs@tarbut.com](mailto:jjacobs@tarbut.com) x 2402**

**Employed by TVT since 2009**

Formerly a middle school teacher at Sinai Akiba Academy, Los Angeles, California, Ms. Jacobs holds a Master of Arts in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion, a B.A. in History from UCLA. In addition to teaching at Sinai Akivba, Ms. Jacobs has also served as the Education Director for the Holy Land Democracy Project at the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, Director of Jewish Education for the Merage Jewish Community Center, Jewish Programs Manager from the Peninsula Jewish Community Center in Foster City, California, an editor and writer for Jewish Family and Life! Media in Newton Massachusetts, the author of *Hebrew for Dummies* (Wiley & Sons; 2003) and the Judaic Coordinator for Morasha Jewish Day School in Aliso Viejo, California.

**Damian Zoppo, M.A.**

**[dzoppo@tarbut.com](mailto:dzoppo@tarbut.com) x 4258**

**Employed by TVT since 2007**

Mr. Zoppo has a Master's Degree in Jewish Studies from Emory University. He has recently been studying with the Pardes Educators Program in Jerusalem and will teach Judaic Studies at TVT.

#### **LIBRARIAN:**

**Cherille Berman, B.A.**

**[cberman@tarbut.com](mailto:cberman@tarbut.com) x 3017**

**Employed by TVT since 1999**

Cherille Berman is a graduate of University of Cape Town and the University of the Witwatersrand. After earning a multiple subject teaching credential, she became a school librarian for the Irvine Unified School District for nine years. In 1999, Ms Berman became the librarian for TVT's newly established library, where she now oversees the operations of both Lower School and Middle/Upper School libraries. As an active member of the community, she also serves as a Human Rights Commissioner for the Irvine City Council and as an Irvine Education Foundation Trustee.

## **MATH AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT:**

**Joy Berkowitz, M.A.**

**[jberkowitz@tarbut.com](mailto:jberkowitz@tarbut.com) x 2975**

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Ms. Berkowitz holds a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis on mathematics from Grand Canyon University, Arizona. In addition, Ms. Berkowitz holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Michigan State University, East Lansing. She comes to TVT from the Windard School in Los Angeles, California and has also taught at Milken Community High School and Michigan State University. She is a member of the Golden Key National Honors Society and a Sallie Mae New Teacher of the Year Finalist.

**Mark May, B.S.**

**[mmay@tarbut.com](mailto:mmay@tarbut.com) x 2985**

***Employed by TVT since 2001***

Mr. May is a graduate of UC Los Angeles with a degree in Economics. He received his California Clear Credential in Mathematics from UC Irvine. Mr. May has taught mathematics for Irvine Unified School District, Tustin Unified School District, and at the Edgewood Campus of Fairmont Private School. Mr. May is proud to be one of our Middle School math specialists, while also continuing to teach one class in the Lower School. Mr. May is an avid gardener and has been known to bring the fruits of his soil to TVT.

**Alla Korineveskaya, M.A.**

**[akorineveskaya@tarbut.com](mailto:akorineveskaya@tarbut.com) x 2932**

***Employed by TVT since 1998***

Mrs. Korineveskaya received her Master's degree in Mathematics from Kiev University in Ukraine and Master's degree in Education from UC Los Angeles. She has also been a consultant to the UCLA Mathematics Leadership Institute since 1995. Additionally, she was appointed to the Mathematics Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee by the State Board of Education in 1996. Mrs. Korineveskaya taught mathematics at two Jewish Schools in Beverly Hills: Pressman Academy and Temple Emanuel (where she was also the math department chair and curriculum writer). Ms. Korineveskaya is the TVT Advanced Learners Program Coordinator and has been the Chair of the student led Math Research Conferences for the past six years, while also teaching the Math Counts class for math enthusiasts.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:**

**Abby Pezzner, B.S.**

[apezzner@tarbut.com](mailto:apezzner@tarbut.com) x 1125

***Employed by TVT since 1998***

Mrs. Pezzner received her Bachelor of Science from Penn State University. She was the Youth & Aquatic Director at the JCC in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and taught PE at the Montessori School and the United Hebrew Institute in Wilkes-Barre. Mrs. Pezzner has been the coach of TVT's Middle School Physical Education Department and Sports Teams for ten years.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT:**

**Annabella Kraut, M.A.**

[akraut@tarbut.com](mailto:akraut@tarbut.com) x 4240

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Ms. Kraut's diverse teaching experience includes the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, the Center for Talent Youth, Johns Hopkins University, the Princeton Review, and the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Ms. Kraut has earned three degrees through the University of Maryland; a B.A. in Anthropology, a B.S. in Psychology, and a Master's in Life Science. She enjoys Table Tennis and Badminton.

**Stacie Waters**

[swaters@tarbut.com](mailto:swaters@tarbut.com) x 4253

***Employed by TVT since 2008***

Ms. Waters taught middle school as a science teacher for the past 25 years, coming to TVT from Bayshore Prep Charter School. She holds a Bachelor's in Education, a Master's in Counseling, and a Professional Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Ms. Waters is a talented teacher with a wealth of experience in the Life and Physical Sciences.

## **SPANISH DEPARTMENT:**

**Kari Encisco**

[kenciso@tarbut.com](mailto:kenciso@tarbut.com) x 4254

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Ms. Encisco graduated from the University of California with a Bachelor of Arts in English and from Saddleback Community College with an Associate Degree in Spanish, where she was active in the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Society. She holds a California Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential. She comes to TVT with experience in both the public and private school sectors.

## **GRADE 6-12 LEARNING SPECIALISTS:**

**Nancy Hetherington, B.A.**

[nhetherington@tarbut.com](mailto:nhetherington@tarbut.com)

***Employed by TVT since 2009***

Ms. Hetherington attended graduate school at the University of the Pacific, studying Learning Disabilities and Educational Psychology. She holds a Bachelor's degree in both Communicative Disorders and Humanities, also from the University of the Pacific. Other Certifications include the Life Standard Elementary Credential, the Life Specialist Instruction Credential in Special Education, the Clear Resource Specialist Certificate of Competence, and over thirty years in education – including Santa Barbara, California; Kenai, Alaska; and most recently at Newport Mesa Unified School District.