



Upper School Faculty Biographies 2009-2010

ART DEPARTMENT:

Kevin Bachelder, M.M.

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 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.

Kim Hays, B.A. (in progress)

khays@tarbut.com x 4209

Employed by TVT since 2006

Mr. Hays is the owner and creative director of his own *Kim Hays Studios*, providing hands-on creation of television series pilots, and television and radio commercials. Mr. Hays career began as a sculptor and prototype builder for Dinamation International. He has written, produced, and directed promotional shorts and continues to work towards completing his degree as a Special Film Major from California State University, Long Beach. This fall Mr. Hays will again share his film, video, and animation expertise with the students at TVT.

Pamela Martinez, M.F.A.

pmartinez@tarbut.com x 4206

Employed by TVT since 2006

Ms. Martinez received her Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education from Northern Arizona University and her Master of Fine Arts degree from Arizona State University. Her teaching and professional experiences are extensive, most recently including a professorship at Saddleback College where she taught Intermediate and Advanced Painting, 2-D Design, and Color Theory.

Joseph Waldron, B.S.

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.

COLLEGE COUNSELING:

Clinton Davis, B.A.

cdavis@tarbut.com x 3029

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mr. Davis is a graduate of Chico State University where he majored in English. In addition, he participated in a graduate program at Concordia University, where he specialized in Curriculum Development. Since 1998 Mr. Davis has taught English in Irvine Unified School District, Anaheim Union School District, and Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School. Currently Mr. Davis serves as the college counselor for students grades 8th -11th, proudly teaches 9th Honors English, and coaches varsity soccer and varsity golf Coach for TVT. Mr. Davis is a proud member of NACAC where he serves as a co-chair for the National College Fair of Orange County, WACAC where he networks with college counseling professionals from around the region and nation and NCTE the National Counsel for Teachers of English.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT:

Linda Cooper, B.A.

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.

Clinton Davis, B.A.

cdavis@tarbut.com x 3029

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mr. Davis is a graduate of Chico State University where he majored in English. In addition, he participated in a graduate program at Concordia University, where he specialized in Curriculum Development. Since 1998 Mr. Davis has taught English in Irvine Unified School District, Anaheim Union School District, and Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School. Currently Mr. Davis serves as the college counselor for students grades 8th -11th, proudly teaches 9th Honors English, and coaches varsity soccer and varsity golf Coach for TVT. Mr. Davis is a proud member of NACAC where he serves as a co-chair for the National College Fair of Orange County, WACAC where he networks with college counseling professionals from around the region and nation and NCTE the National Counsel for Teachers of English.

Daniel Epstein

depstein@tarbut.com x 4269

Employed by TVT since 2008

Mr. Epstein comes to Tarbut V'Torah from New York with eight years of classroom experience, including four years teaching English in Bangkok, Thailand. He is TESOL Certified and holds two masters degrees: a Master of Arts in English Literature from Northwestern University and a Master of Arts in English Education from Columbia.

Michelle Smallwood, M.A.

msmallwood@tarbut.com

Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Smallwood joins TVT from the Maroa-Forsyth High School, Maroa, IL. Additionally, Ms. Smallwood has experience with teaching English, Social Studies, and oversight of the Yearbook from Bellarmine-Jefferson High School in Burbank, California, where she also served as the Model United Nations Advisor. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from the Occidental College Educational Leaders Program, as well B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in History with a minor in English, a California Secondary Single-Subject Teaching Credential. She is the recipient of the Roy Petrie Award for Outstanding Leadership in Teaching and has been cited in *Who's Who among America's Teachers* for two years.

Karin Mayer, M.S.

kmayer@tarbut.com x 4250

Employed by TVT since 1999

Mrs. Mayer received her Master's Degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and currently serves as the English Department Chair. She brings forty-two years of experience to the classroom, having begun her tenure at TVT only after retiring from a long career of teaching at University High School in Irvine.

HEBREW DEPARTMENT:

Nelli Arbiv, M.A.

narbiv@tarbut.com x 4226

Employed at TVT since 2008

Ms. Arbiv comes to TVT from the Hillel Day School in Florida. She holds a Master of Judaic Studies from Siegal College, Miami and a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science, Management, and Human Resource Development from Ben Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel. In addition she earned a teaching certificate in International Relations from Bar-Ilan University, Tel-Aviv, Israel. Ms. Arbiv specializes in individual and differentiated instruction, and has developed many vibrant programs incorporating all aspects of social, cultural, religious and educational perspectives. Ms. Arbiv was the recipient of the Teacher Excellence and Creativity Award (Miami) in 2006.

Lidia Blum, B.A.

lblum@tarbut.com x 2906

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mrs. Blum has been a part of our TVT community for many years. She received her Bachelor's degree from the Midrasha L'Morin Institute for Hebrew Teachers, Buenos Aires. Additionally, she earned her teaching diploma and credentials from the Institute for Hebrew Teachers in the Diaspora: Machon Greenberg, Jerusalem. Mrs. Blum earned a teaching diploma in creative movement from the Collegium Musicum Teachers Institute, Buenos Aires. Mrs. Blum taught Hebrew in Argentina and in the Temples Adat Ari and Beit Tikva before joining the TVT community.

Shir Geshvindman, M.A.

sgeshvindman@tarbut.com

Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Geshvindman will be joining TVT from the Jewish Community High School of the Bay in San Francisco, California, where she served as both the department chair and coordinator of their external Hebrew program. Ms. Geshvindman also has several years experience working on the Community Action Unit of Ben-Gurion University, working in adult instruction for the Ministry of Labor, Nazrat-Ilit municipality and the Ministry of Education, as well as coordinating after school programs for at-risk youth. She holds Master's of Art in Education she received from Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva, Israel in addition to the teaching license and B.A. in Hebrew Language and Literature she earned from the University of Haifa, Israel. Ms. Geshvindman is proficient in Hebrew, Arabic and French and holds the rank of Air Force Corporal.

Judith Kirkley, B.S.

jkirkley@tarbut.com x 2938

Employed by TVT since 1995

Mrs. Kirkley received her Bachelor's degree from the Wingate Institute where she majored in Physical Education and Hebrew Grammar. She is one of the "School's founders," having taught in the original building on Baker Street. Mrs. Kirkley is a Master Teacher in the "Tal Sela" Hebrew program and a language expert with fluency in multiple languages. Mrs. Kirkley has shared her love of tennis with us by coaching our tennis team for the past three years.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

Simon Fellowes, M.S.

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.

Susan Miller, B.A.

smiller@tarbut.com x 2963

Employed by TVT since 1997

Ms. Miller received her Bachelor's Degree from Arizona State University. Previously, while Ms. Miller was at University High School in Irvine, she was twice voted the Teacher of the Year. She has been with TVT for a number of years, and has been responsible for building our Service Learning Program. She teaches innovative courses in U.S. History and Government, and AP History.

Candace Peleaux, B.A.

cpeleaux@tarbut.com x 2907

Employed by TVT since 2000

Ms. Peleaux earned both her Bachelor's degree in History and her Social Science and her Teaching Credential from UC Irvine. She has been teaching at TVT for several years, and enjoys serving as the History Department Chair. A veteran public school teacher, she teaches World History in both the Middle and Upper Schools, as well as Advanced Placement European History. Ms. Peleaux is also the faculty advisor to the Associated Student Body.

JUDAIC STUDIES:

Noah Hurvitz, M.A.

nhurvitz@tarbut.com x 4255

Employed by TVT since 2005

Mr. Hurvitz has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology from UC Irvine and received a second Baccalaureate in Literature in Hebrew Letters from the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, going on to complete his Masters of Arts in Education. He has developed and implemented curricula of Jewish study, prayer and Hebrew and will lead a new afterschool homework program for Middle School students.

Rabbi Leah Lewis, M.A.

llewis@tarbut.com

Employed by TVT since 2009

In addition to serving as the Associate Rabbi and Director of Education at Leo Baeck Temple in Los Angeles, Rabbi Lewis has worked with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, The Jewish Federation, Jewish Family Services, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, and served as the Academic Dean and Social Action Director for the Academy of Living Judaism. Rabbi Lewis holds a Master of Arts in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Hebrew Letters from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Lee Weissman, B.A.

lweissman@tarbut.com x 4207

Employed by TVT since 2005

Mr. Weissman graduated *summa cum laude* from George Washington University, with a Bachelor's in Religion. He teaches to students of all ages on all aspects of Judaism, with classes that encompass such topics as ancient, medieval, and modern Jewish histories, Jewish Philosophy, theology, and more.

Keren Wolf, M.A.

kwolf@tarbut.com x 3031

Employed by TVT since 2005

Ms. Wolf is the Upper School Dean of Students. She holds dual Bachelor's degrees, one in Literature in Hebrew Letters and the other in Jewish studies. Additionally, she earned a Master of Arts in Education from the American Jewish University and a California Teaching Credential from California State University, Fullerton. Her passion is teaching Judaic Studies, texts, and thought.

Damian Zoppo, M.A.

dzoppo@tarbut.com x 4258

Employed by TVT since 2007

Mr. Zoppo has a Master's Degree in Jewish Studies from Emory University and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Georgia, Athens. 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 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.

iberkowitz@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.

Paula Deutsch, M.A.

pdeutsch@tarbut.com

Employed by TVT since 2009

Ms. Deutsch holds M.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Colorado, Denver, a B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and a Certification for Secondary Math from Metro State College, Denver. Her previous experience includes chairing the math department at Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy (on the Denver Campus for Jewish Education) and teaching at Temple Emanuel Religious School in Denver, Colorado.

Tyron Forbay, B.A.

tforbay@tarbut.com x 4215

Employed by TVT since 2004

Mr. Forbay received his Bachelor's degree in Education at the University of Natal in South Africa. He majored in Curriculum Development, Administration, and Management. Additionally, he earned a Higher Diploma in Education from Betchet College of Education in South Africa where he majored in Mathematics and Physical Science. Since that time Mr. Forbay has accrued 18 years experience teaching Upper School math and science. Mr. Forbay has also completed 6 Comrades Marathons (distance = 88 km), 13 ultra-marathons, 21 marathons, and 43 half marathons!

Alla Korineveskaya, M.A.

akorineveskaya@tarbut.com x 2932

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mrs. Korinevskaya 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. Korinevskaya 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.

William Walton, B.S./B.A.

wwalton@tarbut.com x 4216

Employed by TVT since 2003

Originally from Tennessee, Mr. Walton is the Math Department Chair. Prior to coming to TVT he taught at Milken Community High School and Pilgrim School in Los Angeles. He earned his Bachelor's degrees from Carnegie Mellon University where he majored in both Mathematics and Creative Writing. Mr. Walton teaches upper level mathematics courses, including AP Calculus.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

Patrick Roberts, B.S.

proberts@tarbut.com x 1124

Employed by TVT since 1998

Mr. Roberts got his Bachelor of Science Degree from Whittier College and taught for 35 years at Mater Dei High School, Tustin High School, and Mission Viejo High School. Coach Roberts has been the Head of TVT's Upper School Physical Education Department for nine years. He has led our Varsity Basketball teams to victory 161 times and gone to California Inter-Scholastic Federation Playoffs 9 times in those years. Additionally, he has been named Coach of the Year by the CIF.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT:

William Dupuis, M.Ed

wdupuis@tarbut.com x 2904

Employed by TVT since 1997

Mr. Dupuis received his Bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University where he majored in the Natural Sciences before continuing on to receive his Master's in Education from The University of Massachusetts. He taught science at the renowned Choate Rosemary Hall in Connecticut, and lived for a time in the Netherlands. Mr. Dupuis teaches chemistry, including the AP material and serves as the Science Department Chair.

James Lincoln, M.S./M.Ed.

jlincoln@tarbut.com x 4251

Employed by TVT since 2007

Mr. Lincoln received both a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and a Master's degree in Education from UC Los Angeles. He received a second Master's in Physics this past May. While teaching at a Public School in South Central Los Angeles, his students achieved the highest test scores for Physics in the history of the school. Aside from being an outstanding teacher, Mr. Lincoln is fluent in three languages and a practicing musician. He teaches all levels of physics at TVT, including two levels of AP Physics.

Heidi Theisen, PhD

htheisen@tarbut.com x 4257

Employed by TVT since 2007

Dr. Theisen is a graduate from UC Irvine with a Bachelor's of Science in Biology and a doctorate in Developmental Genetics. She has taught and done research at both Cal State Fullerton and UCI. She currently teaches Upper School Biology (College Preparatory and AP) and Genetics.

SPANISH DEPARTMENT:

Sara Tache, B.A.

stache@tarbut.com x 2929

Employed by TVT since 1997

Ms. Tache received her Bachelor's degree from Education Instituto Pedagogico Anglo Espanol and did graduate work in Special Education and Conflict Resolution, at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico.

Kari Encisco

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 SPECIALIST:

Nancy Hetherington, B.A.

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.