



Upper School Faculty Biographies 2011-12

PRINCIPAL:

Laura Roth, BA, M.A., Psy.Ed
Upper School Principal
lroth@tarbut.com x 1140
Employed by TVT since 2007

Dr. Roth received her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton. She went on to get her Master's Degree and Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Hartford. She did her Clinical Psychology internship at The Cambridge Hospital, the teaching hospital for Harvard University. After working in the psychology field for five years, Dr. Roth got involved in education when she became the Director of Counseling Services and the Dean of Faculty at Windward School, a well regarded independent school in Los Angeles. Dr. Roth also taught at Antioch University in the graduate school of Clinical Psychology. In 1999, Dr. Roth became part of a team of educators who worked to found Sage Hill School, where she was the Dean of School Life, acting Director of Admissions, a psychology teacher and JV tennis coach for five years. In 2005, Dr. Roth was appointed Head of Upper School at The Meadows School which is considered to be the finest independent school in Nevada. She missed her family and friends, so Dr. Roth was thrilled to accept the offer from TVT to become Principal of the Upper School and moved back to Orange County in March, 2007.

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 -12th, and coaches varsity golf 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.

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. He currently serves as the English department chair.

David Kerber

dkerber@tarbut.com x 4030

Employed by TVT since 2010

Mr. Kerber comes to Tarbut V'Torah with 10 years of combined teaching experience at the elementary, middle, high school, and college levels. Mr. Kerber received his Bachelor's degree from Willamette University and his Master's degree in English from The University of Montana. When he's not

helping students become excellent readers and writers, Mr. Kerber participates in the world of food politics by volunteering at Slow Food and locavore events.

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.

HEBREW LANGUAGE & LITERATURE:

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.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

Brett Banducci, M.A.

bbanducci@tarbut.com x 4265

Employed by TVT since 2011

Mr. Banducci comes to TVT from the International School of Panama, Panama City where he taught World History and Coached Soccer and Basketball. He is a graduate of the University of San Diego, holding both a Bachelor's of Arts in

History, a California Single Subject Credential in Social Science, and a Master's Degree in History Instruction. Mr. Banducci also has experience as a language teacher in Nagoya, Japan, and as a history teacher for the San Dieguito Academy, Mar Vista High School and the University of California, San Diego's Summer ESL Programs.

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 also 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.

JEWISH STUDIES:

Becca Farber, M.A.

bfarber@tarbut.com x. 1107

Employed by TVT since 2011

Ms. Farber is herself a day school alumna, having graduated from Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, MD before earning her Bachelor of Arts degree from List College Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University's

Barnard College. She spent a semester studying abroad at Rothberg International School, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel before continuing her studies at the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education, Hebrew College where she earned a Master of Jewish Education and Certificate in Jewish Day School Education. She is also certified in the Pardes Educators Program, by the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Israel. Previously, Ms. Farber taught at Beit Chaverim Synagogue (Westport, CT), Yeshivat Hadar (New York, NY), the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center (Falls Village, CT), and the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy (Philadelphia, PA).

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.

LIBRARY:

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.

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!

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.