

THE BEIT RABBAN FACULTY & STAFF 2011-2012

After the children, our outstanding faculty and staff represent the most important element that ensures excellence at Beit Rabban. Committed both to the families and the vision at the heart of Beit Rabban, these individuals were selected based on their own serious engagement with the Jewish community, their knowledge and love of children, their belief in the progressive educational approach we take, and their ability to enhance the community as a whole. Please take a moment to read through the brief bios of our faculty and staff; more importantly, come spend time with us at the school and get to know each of these wonderful people who are dedicated to the children's growth.

THE BEIT RABBAN FACULTY TEAM

The Gan at Beit Rabban

Gan Kachol

Lead Teachers - David Keesey and Liat Zabar

Liat Zabar is beginning her seventh year at Beit Rabban. She previously worked for three years in an early childhood center in Brooklyn, and has taught extensively in Israel. Liat is from Nahariya, Israel and has been living in New York for almost a decade. She has a Bachelors degree from Bar Ilan University.

David Keesey has worked at Beit Rabban for the last four years in both the Gan and the Kevutzot (elementary) programs. He graduated from Yeshiva University with a BA in Psychology. He has experience working as a paraprofessional for the New York City Board of Education and as an early childhood teacher. David is currently pursuing his Masters degree in education at Hunter College.

Gan Tzahov

Lead Teacher – Shira Rodriguez

Associate Teacher – Karen Halperin

Shira Rodriguez is returning for her ninth year at Beit Rabban where she has taught for three years in the Gan and four years in Garinim. Shira received her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College, her MSW from Hunter College, and her BA from Barnard College. **Shira** also serves as the **Gan Coordinator**, providing support to all of the faculty and students in the Gan and leadership in the area of curriculum development and program.

Karen Halperin began her educational journey as a child in the Bank Street School for Children and is in her second year at Beit Rabban. She comes to Beit Rabban after serving as an English teacher in New York and Argentina and working with youth and schools in Scotland, Morocco and Israel. She has a graduate degree from the University of Edinburgh and is currently enrolled in a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education at City College.

Kevutzot - Elementary School

Garinim

Lead Teachers – Sara Bayme and Nechama Weiner

Sara Bayme is in her second year on the Beit Rabban faculty, after serving on the faculty of Ramaz Day School, Solomon Schechter School of Manhattan, and the Rodeph Sholom School. Sara has also taught in the Israeli school system. Sara, a recipient of the Gruss Excellent Teachers Fund Award, has a Bachelor's degree from Yeshiva University and a Master of Science in Elementary Education from Bank Street.

Nechama Weiner is returning to Beit Rabban for her eighth year on the faculty. where she has served as a key teacher in the Gan program. She has a Bachelor's degree in education and Judaic Studies from Touro College, a Master's degree in Education/Literacy degree from Hunter College and extensive experience in Hebrew and Jewish education.

Shorashim

Lead Teachers– Avi Steinberg and Nechamah Goldfarb

Avi Steinberg is returning for his fifth year at Beit Rabban where he has served as a shadow and teacher in the Kevutzot. Avi, a graduate of Yeshiva University with a B.A. in English Literature, is currently working on a Master of Education degree at Bank Street. He has a certificate from Ivriyon, an intensive ulpan for day school teachers at the Jewish Theological Seminary and is a gifted illustrator and cartoonist.

Nechamah Goldfarb is in her second year on the Beit Rabban faculty, having served as an experienced elementary school educator on the teaching faculty at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North New Jersey, Reuben Gittleman Hebrew Day School, and Hillel Day School of Boca Raton. An award winning writer of children's fiction, Nechamah studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for two years before completing her BA in Education and Judaic Studies and Master's degree in Educational Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Master's degree in Education Administration from North Western International University.

Shtillim

Lead Teachers– Miri Libman and Nechamah Goldfarb

Miri Libman is in her second year on the Beit Rabban faculty after serving as an elementary school teacher at Magen David School in Brooklyn, the Heschel School in Manhattan and Yeshiva of North Jersey. Miri has a Bachelor's degree from Queens College and has just completed a Master's degree in General Childhood Education from Bank Street.

Nechamah Goldfarb is in her second year on the Beit Rabban faculty, having served as an experienced elementary school educator on the teaching faculty at the Rosenbaum Yeshiva of North New Jersey, Reuben Gittleman Hebrew Day School, and Hillel Day School of Boca Raton. An award winning writer of children's fiction, Nechamah studied at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for two years before completing her BA in Education and Judaic Studies and Master's degree in Educational Psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and a Master's degree in Education Administration from North Western International University.

Anafim

Lead Teacher – Mary Setton

Associate Teacher – Yael Sacks

Mary Setton is returning for her fifth year at Beit Rabban. She graduated from Bank Street College of Education with a Master's degree in General Elementary Education and also holds a Bachelor's degree from Hunter College in Psychology. Prior to arriving at Beit Rabban, Mary was a teaching intern at a progressive New York City private school and worked as an assistant teacher in a Jewish day school. **Mary** also serves as the **Kevutzot Coordinator**, providing support to the faculty and students of the Kevutzot program and assisting with curriculum development, all-school programming and scheduling.

Yael Sacks comes to Beit Rabban after three years of teaching at B'not Shulamith and a stint as a marine educator. A graduate of the Macaulay Honors College at Queens College with a BA in Physics with a concentration in secondary education and a BA in Math, Yael is also a graduate of the two year Jewish New Teacher Project. Yael served as an education intern at *Machshava Tova* Computer Center in Jerusalem, participated in the Project WILD and Project Learning Tree environmental education program and is a trained facilitator of Outward Bound teamwork initiatives.

Additional teachers and educational resources in The Gan and the Kevutzot

Float Teacher – Aliza Gases

Aliza Gases is in her second year on the Beit Rabban faculty after serving as a teacher at the Jewish Foundation School in Staten Island and a student teacher at Hebrew Academy of Bloomfield, CT. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Hartford and is working towards her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education and Special Education at Touro College. Aliza is also a graduate of the OTZMA Graduate Seminar.

Beth Dinkin will be working part-time with the Beit Rabban team as a **Learning Specialist**, providing support to individual children, the faculty and the Administration. An experienced learning specialist and special education teacher, Beth holds a Bachelor's degree from Clark University, a Master's degree in Special Education from Bank Street, and a certificate from the Hebrew University. Beth also holds Permanent Teaching Certification in Special Education from New York State and a Permanent Teaching License in Special Education from New York City.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Rabbi Andrew Davids – Executive Director

Bringing over twenty-five years of involvement in Jewish education and leadership, **Rabbi Andrew Davids** serves as the Executive Director of Beit Rabban, supervising both the educational staff and the administrative side of the school. He also works with the Board of Trustees on finance, management and strategic planning, the philanthropic activity of the school, recruitment & admissions. Andrew was ordained in Jerusalem by the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, and holds graduate degrees in nonprofit management and in Hebrew literature.

Carol Ribner – Director of Education

Carol Ribner serves as the Director of Education. Carol, an alumna of Brooklyn's Bialik School and former Director of Rikud at Camp Ramah, is an inspiring and seasoned educator who is passionate about progressive elementary education and innovative in her approach to curriculum, professional development, and assessment. Over the past 20 years, she has served as school principal and in other administrative capacities, and taught in the classroom in public schools as well as at Rodeph Shalom Day School. She has advanced qualifications in educational administration and supervision, as well as an MA in Education from Bank Street. Carol is currently a Sulam Fellow, a highly selective program of intensive Judaic studies for day school leaders run by RAVSAK and sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation.

Rabbi Alan Zelenetz – Dean of Jewish Studies

Alan Zelenetz serves as the Dean of Jewish Studies. Holding a B.A. in English and Classics from Brooklyn College and a M.A. and a M. Phil. in English and Comp Lit from Columbia, Rabbi Zelenetz received smikah from Marebitzei Torah Institution of Brooklyn. Rabbi Zelenetz has held positions of educational leadership at a number of New York City day schools -- including the Yeshivah of Flatbush, Solomon Schechter, and Magen David -- and has served as Director of Curriculum Development of TC Innovations at Teachers College, Columbia University, specializing in interdisciplinary curricular and co-curricular design. As well as scripting Conan the Barbarian and The Mighty Thor for Marvel Comics, he has also worked as an editor at Envoi: A Review Journal of Medieval Literature and The Recorder, the literary journal of the American Irish Historical Society.

Barbara Stern – Child and Education Specialist

Barbara Stern serves as the Child and Education Specialist. Barbara Stern holds master's degrees in education from Bank Street College and social work from Hunter College School of Social Work. Prior to working at Beit Rabban, she served on the faculty of Bank Street College, founded and ran a parents center, and developed a literacy assessment tool for the NYC Department of Education. She continues to practice psychotherapy with children and adults, run parent workshops, and conduct staff development for teachers.

Teri Normand – Business Director

Teri Normand joined the Beit Rabban staff in February 2005. Teri works on all issues related to financial management, tuition, financial aid, Human Resources, and our database. In addition, Teri has coordinated the last three annual Beit Rabban benefits, Manna from Heaven. Teri supervises the Administrative Assistant. Previously Teri worked initially as the Development Coordinator and Director of the American Society of the University of Haifa. Teri has a double Masters in Jewish Communal Service and Non-Profit Management from Brandeis University.

Hindy Kisch - Director of Admissions & Exmissions

Hindy Kisch leads our recruitment and admissions efforts for school. She also works in exmissions in helping our current families in preparing for smooth transitions to other day schools at the culmination of their completed educational experience at Beit Rabban. Hindy's first career was as an elementary school in the New York City school system, where she taught for thirteen years, and has a Master's degree in Education. Prior to coming to Beit Rabban, she worked at The Jewish Museum for fourteen years where she managed hundreds of non-profit organizational events held at the Museum. She has also worked for

other Jewish non-profit organizations. She lives in the neighborhood, is married and has a college-aged son who was educated at Jewish day schools in Manhattan.

Laura Kochman– Administrative Assistant and Health Clerk

Laura Kochman serves as the Administrative Assistant and Health Clerk at Beit Rabban. Laura has just returned from six months in Israel where she was project coordinator for CityTree Urban Ecology Center in Tel Aviv. Prior to being in Israel, Laura worked as project coordinator and administrative assistant in a firm focusing on legal training in New York and at a medical technology firm in D.C. A graduate of Binghamton University with a BA in Art History, Laura is originally from Memphis, Tennessee.