

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

Kindergarten:

Fridays 3:45-4:45pm: Jen Armus

Jen Armus



Shalom! Jen is thrilled to be returning for her 12th year teaching Kindergarten!

She is eagerly awaiting seeing new and familiar faces on October 9. Jen lived in Israel for many years and is excited to share her passion and love of Israel's culture, language and heritage with your children! She is looking forward to embarking on a journey together of learning through a Jewish lens.

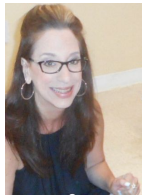
When Jen is not teaching religious school, you can find her hiking on Long Island with her husband Cliff, or spending time with her two daughters, Maya and Madison. Jen's oldest daughter, Madison, who was in the very first BHS Preschool class, is now entering her senior year of University in Nova Scotia, Canada in the fall.

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

First Grade:

- **Sundays 10:00-11:30: Karen Epstein and Mandy Bach**
- **Tuesdays 4:00-4:30pm: Aliza Deutsch and Lisa Kopel**

Karen Epstein



Hello, my name is Karen Epstein and I am very excited to teach Kindergarten/First Grade at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue this year. This is my sixth year teaching Religious School and I feel fortunate to continue to be a member of the BHS community. Our curriculum this year will focus on the book of creation as well as explore our Jewish heritage and values through educational games, holidays, songs and customs, and art activities. I look forward to meeting you, getting to know your families throughout the year and sharing in many celebrations during the school year.

Aliza Deutsch



This is my 15th teaching at the BHS preschool, and my 5th year teaching in the Religious school. BHS is kind of my home away from home. I live on the Lower East Side with my husband and two sons, and our cranky, but we love him anyway, dog. I love teaching Jewish stories, and celebrating Jewish holidays.

Mandy Bach



I am so excited to be returning to BHS for my second year. I am looking forward to creating more connections with and between students and families this year. When I am not at BHS, I work as a case worker at a Jewish community center for older adults. I am lucky to get to work with people at all stages of life! I moved to NYC from California in 2018, where I was also a religious school teacher at the synagogue in which I grew up. My favorite part of being Jewish is being part of a diverse, inclusive, and generous community. On the weekends, you can catch me rollerblading around Brooklyn (weather permitting!!)

Lisa Kopel



Lisa is the Assistant Director of the Parenting Center and Family Engagement as well as a teacher in both the Religious School and Preschool. With the exception of the four years she spent at Brandeis University, Brooklyn has always been her home. She lives in Brooklyn Heights with her husband and two sons who both attended the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue Preschool and Religious School. Lisa is excited to teach Second Grade, a class she taught for the past 3 years. She looks forward to bringing her energy and enthusiasm for fostering a rich love of Jewish life and tradition

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

Second Grade:

- **Sundays 10:00-11:30: Karen Epstein and Mandy Bach**
- **Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm : Aliza Deutsch and Lisa Kopel**

Karen Epstein



Hello, my name is Karen Epstein and I am very excited to teach Kindergarten/First Grade at Brooklyn Heights Synagogue this year. This is my sixth year teaching Religious School and I feel fortunate to continue to be a member of the BHS community. Our curriculum this year will focus on the book of creation as well as explore our Jewish heritage and values through educational games, holidays, songs and customs, and art activities. I look forward to meeting you, getting to know your families throughout the year and sharing in many celebrations during the school year.

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Mandy Bach



Hello BHS Religious School Families! My name is Mandy Bach, and I am so excited to be returning to BHS for my second year of being a religious school teacher--this time, with 1st and 2nd graders on Sundays! I am looking forward to creating more connections with and between students and families this year. When I am not at BHS, I work as a case worker at a Jewish community center for older adults. I am lucky to get to work with people at all stages of life! I moved to NYC from California in 2018, where I was also a religious school teacher at the synagogue in which I grew up. My favorite part of being Jewish is being part of a diverse, inclusive, and generous community. On the weekends, you can catch me rollerblading around Brooklyn (weather permitting!)!

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Third Grade:

Mondays 4:00-5:30pm: Paige Gottheim and Rebecca Schaeffer-Moldovan

Paige Gottheim



Paige is returning to BHS for her sixth year school year! When not teaching 3rd graders Hebrew letters and Jewish culture, Paige is a yoga and meditation instructor for humans of all ages. Paige holds an M.A. and B.A. from the University of Virginia and spent 2 years in Israel as a young adult connecting to her Jewish heritage. She loves nature in all its forms, dark chocolate, spontaneous dance parties, colorful cuisine, Shabbat dinners, reading books and riding her bicycle.

Rebecca Schaeffer-Moldovan



Rebecca Schaeffer-Moldovan is working on her Master's Degree in Jewish History at Touro College. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Marketing from Fashion Institute of Technology and a Certificate in Non-Profit Management from The City University of New York. She currently works as the Director to the organization the American Friends of Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Inc. Past positions have included the Museum of Jewish Heritage, JewishGen, Inc., The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Chai Lifeline, Brotherhood Synagogue and Town & Village Synagogue. Rebecca is an active member of her Synagogue the Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue, where she teaches an adult education class on the Jewish Holidays and is on the Religious Life Committee and the Israel Vaad. She is on the board of the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York and the non-profit Kosher Clothing, Inc. Past volunteer positions have included being the archivist for the Friedman Society, a society of Judaic collectors and teaching Seniors genealogy through an online class. Judaism touches many aspects of her life as a collector of Judaica and Hebraic, in genealogy and in her studies of history.

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

Fourth Grade:

- **Sundays: 10:00am-11:30am: Imogene Winkelman**
- **Mondays/Wednesday 4:00-5:30pm: Aaron Finbloom**

Imogene Winkelman



Imogene is excited to return to BHS Religious School. Originally from Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, Imogene has lived in Brooklyn since 2016. Imogene previously worked for the Union for Reform Judaism as Regional Advisor for NFTY's New York Area Region and now works for Girl Scouts of the USA as Manager, National Partnerships. Imogene loves creating Jewish community and practicing the values that Judaism teaches us, and is excited to continue to learn with BHS students this year. In her free time, Imogene enjoys biking, swimming, playing the guitar, and exploring parks.

Aaron Finbloom



Aaron Finbloom is a philosopher, musician, educator and artist. He has an PhD in Interdisciplinary Humanities from Concordia University (Montreal), and is currently teaching philosophy at City College. Aaron's favorite part of Judaism is its love of questioning — questions that have questions inside of them, which have questions inside of those questions. He is super excited to teach at BHS to help students find meaning in ritual, spirituality, and connection. He plays piano, accordion and guitar, and loves singing.

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

Fifth Grade:

Sundays 10:00am-11:30 Adam Graubart

Mondays/Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm:

- **Art: Ronit Levin Delgado**
- **Book Club: Aviva Gerwein**
- **Academic/Judaic Studies: Adam Graubart**

Ronit Levin Delgado



Ronit is a multidisciplinary visual artist, born in Tel Aviv Israel, and came to NYC after winning the Fulbright Scholarship for her MFA studies at Montclair University. She is a BFA graduate of Bezalel Academy in Jerusalem. Ronit has been teaching Art, Hebrew and Judaism for the past 7 years to all ages at different after-schools (School for Creative Judaism, Temple Israel, CBE), institutions, summer camps (Jewish Agency, JCC), universities and organizations. Ronit is super excited to continue her second year with BHS interacting with all the talented and great students.

Adam Graubart



Adam believes Judaism inspires a deep sense of morality and dedication to collective justice. He recently moved to Brooklyn to begin rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Previously, he lived in Washington, D.C., studying Human Services and Social Justice, Judaic Studies, and Hebrew at George Washington University. At BHS, Adam is excited to lead students in discovering how we use Jewish ideas and history to form vibrant and righteous communities. In his spare time, Adam enjoys cooking, reading, hiking, running, theater, and checking out new places, especially restaurants and ice cream shops. Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, Adam spent 4 months volunteering and trekking throughout Chile and Argentina.

Aviva Gerwein



Aviva is a sophomore at NYU Tisch pursuing a degree in screenwriting. She has worked in Hebrew schools and Jewish summer camps since 2018, including Ramah in the Rockies Outdoor Adventure. Originally from California, Aviva loves hiking, cooking, exploring the city, and the beach. Aviva thrives in the feelings of unity and connectedness. Since moving to NYC, she has found the communities at NYU Hillel and BHS to be really grounding. Aviva is passionate about being a part of tradition dating back thousands of years and thinks that passing down Jewish culture through the generations is incredibly sacred work. Her proudest moment was when she won her 3rd grade presidential election by one vote.

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

Sixth Grade:

- **Sundays 10:00am-11:30: Katrina Mattson**
- **Sundays/Mondays/Wednesdays 4:00-5:30pm: Katrina Mattson**

Katrina Mattson



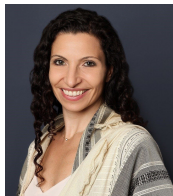
Hello BHS community! I'm so excited to return for a third year as a religious school teacher! I've been working with children for the past 6 years, as a nanny and as a teacher in religious and secular schools. I first started teaching during my last year of college, as an assistant music teacher at a secular school in Yonkers, and I've loved getting to know everyone during the past 3 years at this religious school! I know last year and this year are different than normal, but I think that has made our community stronger, and more able to question our own thoughts and values. I can't wait to hear everyone's thoughts and experiences about this past summer! I hope we can work together to create a fun, open, ready to learn and ready to question learning environment. See you soon!

Seventh Grade:

Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm

- Cantillation: Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski
- Modern Hebrew: Katie Rein
- Social Justice: Irene Siegel
- Theology: Rabbi Molly Kane
- Midrash: Yechiel Wolgel/Shiraz Biggie

Cantor Ayelet Porzecanski



Katie Rein



Rabbi Molly Kane



Irene Siegel



I'm excited to start my 2nd year on the BHS teaching team! I look forward to digging into Social-Justice work & other Judaic riches. I've been teaching for 20 years, from refugee camps to University classrooms. I'm entering my 5th year as a teacher at Kolot Chayeinu's Children's Learning Program, where I've enjoyed using arts & other experiential learning to teach kids from 4 to 14. I teach private & group classes in Arabic & French language; literature, writing & cultural studies; yoga & movement; & facilitate "upstander" workshops, to foster skills in de-escalation & empowerment to intervene against acts of bullying, violence or other forms of intolerance. When I'm not teaching, I can be found doing social-justice organizing; performing as a freelance dancer & physical theater artist; or working on a writing or translation project. I also love to bike, travel, read, explore languages and linguistics, & learn how to fix things! I hold a PhD in Comparative Literature (Arabic/French) from UC Berkeley; & an eternal passion for learning that drives my teaching. I came to Judaism as a spiritual practice late in life, & love both fostering and sharing in the enthusiastic journey of discovery with my students.

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Musicians/Tfilah leaders:

- Healy Slakman
- Ran Livneh

Healy Slakman-Student Rabbi



Healy is a third year rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and overjoyed to be spending her second year with the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue community. She was raised in a Sephardic/Ashkenazi Jewish home and has loved engaging with Jewish rituals and traditions from an early age. Healy graduated from Eckerd College earning her Bachelors of Arts in business administration, with minors in visual art and finance. Previously, she worked in wealth management before transitioning to the Jewish professional world, serving as a cantorial soloist for several years in St. Petersburg, FL. In her free time you can find Healy exploring the outdoors, writing poetry, making art, conducting experimental cooking projects, singing, playing guitar, taking long walks, and having long chats.

Ran Livneh



Born in Zikhron-Ya'akov, Israel, Ran Livneh moved to Brooklyn 9 years ago to play music as a bass player. Ran is involved in the NY Jewish community - from teaching to playing music in services. He loves to combine the healing power of music and sounds together with the Limud of Hebrew and Judaism, in a way that connects deeply to the roots of our traditions. In Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Ran is playing in the Other Fridays Services alongside with Healy and enjoying working with the students during Tefila

2020-2021/5781 Religious School Teachers

Hebrew Helpers:

Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays: Shiraz Biggie and Yechiel Wolgel

Shiraz Biggie



Shiraz Biggie is excited to be back at BHS this year! She's even discovered that she enjoys teaching online. She loves to work with Hebrew students helping them find meaning and make connections to all the different things they are learning about Judaism. In her other life she is completing a PhD in Theatre and Performance at the CUNY Graduate Center where she focuses on Jewish and Irish theatre. She teaches children's literature and theatre at Brooklyn College. When she's not reading she is an avid crafter and has a healthy obsession with her dog, Seraphina.

Yechiel Wolgel



Hi I am Yechiel Wolgel, and this will be my fourth year as a full time teacher at BHS! I grew up in Israel and after high school spent 6 years in yeshivas, and this past year I graduated from Baruch College, where I teach. I enjoy the way in which Judaism allows for personal discovery and growth. I was raised in a fairly isolated environment but Jewish texts have opened up my eyes to progressive causes and views. Through Judaism I have found ways to express my true self and support for issues that are important to me. I am so excited to be back at BHS and to continue to see the student's growth and to meet new students.