

Lynn Harris- Kindergarten and 1st Grade



Lynn is a native of Milwaukee – born and raised there. She earned her M.A. in Judaic Studies from the Siegal College of Jewish Studies in Cleveland, and has been teaching Hebrew School since 1986. She loves to travel, read, and cook! Her 3 adult children are married and she is blessed with grandchildren. Lynn and her husband enjoy living in West Rogers Park. Lynn is so happy and excited to be teaching K/1 this year at B'nai Tikvah.

Sandra Cohen- 2nd Grade



I grew up in Chicago and attended Ida Crown Jewish Academy. I was involved in Bnei Akiva, a religious Zionist organization and spent my summers at Camp Moshava in Wild Rose Wisconsin. I spent my gap-year abroad in Israel on a work study program on Kibbutz Yavne (near Ashdod). I graduated from Northeastern Illinois University with a degree in Speech and Performing Arts. I taught Hebrew as well as Hebrew High School for many years both in Chicago and in Buffalo Grove. I love visiting Israel especially since I have family there, including an Identical twin sister. I love to travel, go vintage shopping and enjoy life!

Marsha Kasanov- 3rd Grade



My name is Marsha Kasanov and I have been a Hebrew teacher at The Religious School for more than 30 years. I continue to enjoy the look of recognition when a student sounds out a word they already know, such as “Shabbat” or “Shalom”, and realize they can read it in Hebrew! I live in Arlington Heights with my husband, Joel. We have two amazing children and four wonderful grandchildren. Along with my interest in Jewish education, when I am not teaching I am involved in another aspect of Jewish life. I am a Judaic fabric artist and create various types of Judaic ceremonial fabric items such as tallitot, kipot, chuppot, ark curtains, etc.

Barbara Glimmer- 3rd Grade



I'm happy to begin a year meeting new students and knowing our time will be filled with fun in exploring our Jewish legacy. I've lived in Chicago all my life marrying an Israeli, raising two children and now being Savta to five wonderful grandchildren. My favorite place to travel to is Israel where I've attended summer school for the past twenty six years! Looking forward to sharing my Sunday mornings with my students!

Zipporah Perlmutter- 4th Grade



My name is Zipporah Perlmutter and I have been teaching at The Religious School for more than 30 years and love it dearly. I was born in Israel and studied Hebrew and English Literature and the Hebrew language at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Teaching Judaica is my passion. I see myself as lucky because I am just as excited and enthusiastic every year as I was for my first year of teaching.

Myra Friedland- 5th Grade



My name is Myra Friedland. I am so excited to be one of the 5th Grade teachers this year. I love working with and teaching children and am looking forward to another exciting year imparting my love and enthusiasm for Judaica and Israel. I was an elementary Physical Education teacher for over 30 years, the last 26 years at Solomon Schechter Day School in Northbrook, before leaving teaching full time. I have also taught religious school at Congregation Beth El in Highland Park.

Anita Gelbart- 6th Grade



My name is Anita Gelbart and it is a pleasure to teach your child. I am a veteran teacher at The Religious School and have been teaching here for over 30 years! I enjoy teaching Hebrew, History, Torah, and Jewish Heritage to your children. This year has been filled with many new and exciting learning opportunities. Along with teaching at B'nai Tikvah, I work at Hillel Torah Day School in Skokie as the educational coordinator. Despite a very hectic schedule, I try to find time for power walking, swimming in the summer, reading, cooking and entertaining for Shabbat, and of course my most favorite activity: spending time with our children and adorable grandchildren!

Mindy Reiss- 6th Grade



I've been teaching Judaic Studies for over 25 years, and every year is my first! I have my MS in Jewish Education from Azrieli, Yeshiva University, and I have lived, studied and taught in Israel. I teach in a Jewish Day School during the week, and I give classes to adults on a variety of Jewish topics. Our family moved to Chicagoland from NY 6 years ago when the CRC (Chicago Rabbinical Council) recruited my husband as their Av Beit Din (Chief Rabbinical Judge). I can't wait to meet and learn with all of you!

Jason Karno- 7th Grade



Being raised by a Rabbi instilled a love of Torah and kindness. As a new member of the B'nai Tikvah staff, I will teach our students what it means to be a Jew. I have taught Hebrew school for over a decade and have been in education for nearly 20 years as a classroom teacher, a specialist, an Assistant Principal and a Principal. I live in Buffalo Grove with my beautiful wife and awesome teenage boys. I am thrilled to be part of the B'nai Tikvah Faculty.

Melissa Drazner- 8th and 9th Grade



Melissa has been a teacher for the past 30+ years. She has taught all grades from preschool to adult education. She is very excited to be joining the B'Nai Tikvah staff. Melissa lives in Buffalo Grove and is the proud mother of Abigail and Jeremy.

Jeremy Raskin- Music



My name is Jeremy Raskin, and I grew up in Long Island, NY. I am so excited to begin my 2nd year as the music teacher here at Congregation B'nai Tikvah. I studied history and languages at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. I have been a Jewish educator and song leader for over 12 years, after leaving a career in television in Los Angeles that left me wanting more from life. I became a teacher because I love working in a creative, Jewish environment. I'm best known by my students for my fun repertoire of Jewish children's music. When I'm not teaching, my wife Andrea & I are raising our daughter, Tamara Keren in Rogers Park, Chicago.

Paul Kerman- Resource Teacher



I am thrilled to be working at B'nai Tikvah as Tuesday's Resource Teacher. I have been teaching at Jewish schools on the North Shore for over 30 years, as well as having taught for C.P.S. as a Math and Science teacher and consultant for over 40 years. For fun, I play guitar, read spy novels, and most importantly, enjoy being the Papa to our two beautiful granddaughters. I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of our Tuesday students.