

Judaic Faculty

LYNN BERMAN is a member and regular teacher with the local Pittsburgh Israeli Folk Dance group. She has degrees in Theater and Special Education and has extensive background in classical dance. She has directed, choreographed and worked in most aspects of theater production. During the summer of 2011, Lynn attended the Summer Course for Foreign Teachers of Israeli Dance associated with the Karmiel Dance Festival, learning the most recent dances from the choreographers themselves. She has taught students ranging in age from birth to college.

LAUREN BRAUN is a visual artist working in mixed media collage, drawing and photography. She received her MFA in Studio Art from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and a BFA in Photography from Syracuse University. She works as the Reel to Real Program Coordinator and Assistant to the Executive Director at JFilm: The Pittsburgh Jewish Film Forum.

AMY DICKER: After growing up in West Virginia and graduating from high school in Columbus, OH, Amy started college and began her youth-work career in the JCC, Young Judaea, NFTY, BBYO, and Hillel organizations. Her work with youngsters took her from Columbus to California and back again, until she came to Pittsburgh last fall in order to return to the classroom... in this case, both as a student and a teacher. She is VERY excited to join the J-SITE staff.

NITSA FORD is an experienced Hebrew teacher trained in NETA curriculum program. She has a BA in International Relation and a MA in public Administration. Nitsa has a diverse experience working with American youth through various American Jewish programs in Israel and is also a RYI (Registered Yoga Instructor) with many years of teaching Iyengar style yoga.

RABBI ARI GOLDBERG is the director of Pittsburgh NCSY as well as the Jewish Student Union Club in Allderdice. Rabbi Goldberg brings years of hands-on experience to the table and continues to engage teens of all backgrounds with innovative classes and activities.

BETH GOLDSTEIN, RJE, is the Director of Teen Education at the Agency for Jewish Learning. Before moving to Pittsburgh, she served as the Director of Lifelong Learning at Congregation Sinai in Milwaukee, WI. Beth has a Masters in Jewish Education and a Masters in Jewish Communal Service from Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion and a BA in music from Brandeis University.

MELISSA HILLER is the Director of the American Jewish Museum, where she curates exhibitions that focus on modern and contemporary art. She is responsible for advancing the **museum's exhibition** development, fundraising and outreach programming. Melissa earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Pittsburgh and her Masters of Arts from the Center for Curatorial Studies at Bard College.

DAVID KATZ has over 7 years of experience working with Jewish youth, 3 of which were spent as the youth director at Congregation Beth Shalom. David currently works at the Hillel Jewish University Center as the **Director of J'burgh, an organization focused on enhancing the quality of life** for Jewish graduate students and young professionals.

LEEHEE KANNE was born and raised in Tel-Aviv, Israel, and has spent the past 12 years working as an educator. During her army service, she was a commander of underprivileged soldiers attempting to obtain a high-school diploma, and immediately after the end of her mandatory two year service started working at Jewish American summer camps as a counselor, educator and later unit head. Over the years she has also been a part of the screening process for other summer camp shlichim, and has trained Israelis for the position for over 9 years. She has worked with children and teens in various areas such as theater, art, teaching English as a Foreign Language, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons for special needs children. She spent two years in Pittsburgh as a Youth Shlicha, during which she taught at J-Site, and went back to Israel to complete her B.Ed. She has returned to Pittsburgh as the Community Shlicha.

SHOSHANA KRAUS is the Assistant Director of the Teen Department at the AJL. She grew up in the Metro- Detroit area and studied Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University. She has 14 years of teaching experience in both outdoor and traditional classroom settings. Shoshana is new to Pittsburgh and is excited to teach and learn in a vibrant Jewish community.

STEVE KROSER was born in South Africa and made Aliyah when he was 16. He completed high school in **Israel and became a paratrooper in the Israeli Defense Force. Steve's two greatest passions** are his family and his Jewish heritage and he loves to share both. Steve is the Pittsburgh Coordinator for the Diller Teen Fellows Program. His full time job is freelance IT consulting.

NIZAN LEBOVICH graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv with degrees in both Composition **and Conducting. Nizan received his Master's of Arts in Orchestral Conducting** from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. He currently conducts orchestras and ensembles in the United States, Europe, and Israel.

BARAK NAVEH graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, with a degree in history education. He completed his Masters degree in Administration and Policy Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Barak teaches ninth grade civics and tenth grade US History at the Barack Obama Academy of International Studies.

VITA NEMIROVSKY has a Masters of Education with a specialization in General Special Education from University of Pittsburgh, a BA in Education from Temple University, and also spent a year studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Vita brings experience working with children of all ages in Pittsburgh Public Schools as a teacher, consultant and supervisor.

SHULAMIS ROTHMAN is a graduate of Beth Rivkah Teacher Seminary, having taught at all grade level for over 30 years. Jewish education is her passion and her students are the focus of her energy.

TRACY TUCHIN has been a teacher for more than 10 years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. She has taught at multiple grade levels at her synagogue for more than fifteen years. Tracy has chaperoned Jewish teens to Israel four times and Poland twice. She lives with her husband, Ron, in Stanton Heights. She has two college age children, Hannah and Sam.

Hebrew Faculty

NITSA FORD is an experienced Hebrew teacher trained in NETA curriculum program. She has a BA in International Relation and a MA in public Administration. Nitsa has a diverse experience working with American youth through various American Jewish programs in Israel and is also a RYI (Registered Yoga Instructor) with many years of teaching Iyengar style yoga.

COCHAVA GOLDIS was born in Petach Tikva, Israel. She graduated from the Law School of Bar Ilan University, Israel and is a member of the Israeli Bar since 1991. Mrs. Goldis is also a certified Bio-Balance therapist and coach and currently studies in a program for certified instructors and groups mediators according to the Kabballa wisdom. Cochava is certified in NETA teaching and is excited to begin teaching at J-SITE this fall!

NIRA LION is the Director of the AJL Hebrew Language Programs and the NETA Hebrew Coordinator. In 2002, Nira received the Grinspoon Steinhardt Award for excellence in Jewish education as teacher, mentor, and leader. She is a graduate of Hebrew University in Jerusalem majoring in Hebrew literature, Bible and Linguistics, where she also received teaching certification in 1971. She earned a M. Ed. from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2011 Nira earned a certificate in Hebrew Language Teaching and Mentoring (NETA).

RONIT PASTERNAK received a BA in Education with honors from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a senior Hebrew teacher who began teaching Hebrew at SAJS and has now taught Hebrew for 13 years at Community Day School. Ronit was selected by the AJL to be one of the five lead teachers studying methods of teaching a foreign language at University of Pittsburgh and has received a teaching certificate from Pitt for teaching Foreign Language. Ronit took the NETA training course, participated in their seminars and is experienced in teaching Hebrew using the NETA program.

ORNA TAL received her BA in Jewish World History as well as her High School Teaching Certificate from Hebrew University. Additionally, she received a degree in occupational therapy from the University of Tel-Aviv. Orna also earned a BEd in Education from the University of Johannesburg in South Africa. She was one of five teachers selected to study methods of teaching foreign languages from the University of Pittsburgh. In addition, Orna taught for several years both in SAJS and at Hillel Academy.