Blake Guzman
Pre-K Teacher
Blake joined the teaching staff at TSLC this year and has been teaching at Temple Sholom’s nursery school since 2020. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education and Sociology and her Master’s Degree in Special and General Elementary Education from Manhattanville College. Prior to joining Temple Sholom, she taught at Temple Beth Shalom Nursery School in Hastings on Hudson for seven years and was also a Hebrew school teacher there from 2013-2017. Blake lives with her husband, two children and two bulldogs in Irvington, NY.

Alice Schoen
TSLC Office Manager/Congregational Coordinator
alice.schoen@templesholom.com
Alice began her position as TSLC’s Office Manager in August of 2019. She first joined Temple Sholom in 2002 as a 2’s assistant teacher in the nursery school and later became the Temple’s Congregational Coordinator. She is responsible for coordinating b’nai mitzvah calendars and helps to support the Temple’s various programs. Alice lives in Rye Brook, NY, with her husband, Steve, and children, Jessica, Jason, and Jordan.

Rabbi Kevin Peters
Assistant Rabbi/Director of Jewish Education & Youth Programs
rabbikevin@templesholom.com
Rabbi Kevin joined Temple Sholom in 2018 as a rabbinic fellow. He became Director of Jewish Education and Youth Programs after earning his MA in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). He completed his Master’s concentration in Israel Education from the iCenter in 2017 and was part of the 2019-20 Leffell Israel Fellows cohort. Rabbi Kevin was ordained by JTS in May of 2021. As someone with dyslexia and ADHD, Rabbi Kevin is dedicated to helping to make Jewish communal and educational environments more inclusive and sensitive to the needs of individuals with learning disabilities. He graduated with honors from CUNY, College of Staten Island with a BA in psychology. Rabbi Kevin is a native New Yorker. He has four siblings and is the proud uncle of six amazing nieces and nephews.

Faith Hurvitz
Taste of TSLC (TOT) Teacher
Faith is completing her Bachelor’s of Science degree in Interior Design at the University of Bridgeport. In the past, she has worked as a counselor at Camp Ramah New England, and as an intern at three interior design firms. This is Faith’s first year working for both the Religious School and as a sub in the Selma Maisel Nursery School. She looks forward to bringing her experiences to the classroom and help shape kid’s Jewish identities in a fun and engaging way.

Cindy Nachson-Schecter
Taste of TSLC (TOT) Teacher
Cindy joined TSLC in 2020 and has been a Selma Maisel Nursery School teacher since 2018. She earned her BA in English at Tufts University and her Masters in Cinema Studies from NYU. For eight years, Cindy was a teacher at JumpStart, a unique preschool for children with special needs. She also taught Arts & Crafts at Creative Kids in Greenwich and Best Time Ever in Stamford. Cindy also ran the Stamford Chapter of PJ Library. When not busy with her husband, two teenagers, and two huskies, Cindy is an avid reader and blogger, and enjoys doing crossword puzzles. She loves TV theme songs, dancing, old movies, and, of course, crafting.

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**Diane Janof**  
*Pre-K Teacher Assistant*

Diane joined the staff at TSLC after being a teacher at SMNS since 2018. She grew up in Butler, Pennsylvania and attended the University of Pittsburgh where she earned a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Masters Degree in Vocational Education. Diane has been teaching infants/toddlers since 1997. She lives in Trumbull, CT and has two daughters who are in college. In her free time, Diane likes to play tennis and take walks with her Yorkie, Leia.

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**Ellen Sklar**  
*Kindergarten Assistant*

Ellen has been working with Temple Sholom’s Learning Center Kindergarten class since 2012. Additionally, Ellen has been teaching preschool at Children’s Learning Center in Stamford for 14 years. Prior to that, she worked at BiCultural Day School, Westover Elementary School, and PearTree Point School.

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**Sydney Goldman**  
*Kindergarten Teacher*

This is Sydney’s third year as a Kindergarten teacher at TSLC and has been teaching at SMNS since 2018. She earned her BS in International Child Development from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. Sydney has taught English in South Korea. Her greatest joy is seeing the bright smiles, discovery, and learning in her students while watching them grow and develop. In her free time, Sydney loves to travel to new places and to volunteer with children wherever she can. She also loves spending time with her dog, Oliver.

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**Liat Feller**  
*1st Grade Teacher*

Liat has always had a passion for working with children and comes to Temple Sholom with six years of experience in early childhood and education. She grew up in Stamford and is a 2017 graduate of the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering. Liat is working towards her BA in Early Childhood Education from American Jewish University and previously taught at Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center in Stamford. She has also worked at Greenwich’s Camp Gan Israel and completed several educational internships. Liat enjoys exploring Judaism with children through multisensory activities and memorable real-life experiences.

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**Marilyn Terr**  
*Kindergarten Teacher*

This is Marilyn’s third year at TSLC (she also is a former SMNS teacher). She previously worked at Hart Elementary School teaching Learning to Look (a stimulating art appreciation program), and Junior Achievement (an introduction to financial readiness in the global economy program). Marilyn has spent over 15 years as an active communities volunteer focusing on working with school-age children. Her experience includes volunteering with Northeast Math Mates (a program teaching basic math skills), as well her sons’ Boy Scout troops and Temple Sinai in Stamford. She is a fellow graduate of the Behrend Institute for Leadership and a Sinai graduate of the Amidah Leadership Program.

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**Emily Matulich**  
*1st Grade Teacher*

Emily has been teaching kindergarten and first grade students with special needs in the Bronx for the last 6 years. Prior to that, she gained teaching experience at different schools in Westchester, teaching students in grades first through third. Previously, Emily taught religious school in Rye to fifth and sixth graders. She is excited to return to TSLC for her second year and to continue to be part of the Temple Sholom community. She enjoys reading books, singing songs, and doing art projects. Her daughters, Amy and Anna, attend the Selma Maisel Nursery School.
Rebecca Nirschel  
2nd Grade Teacher

Rebecca is looking forward to her first year teaching at Temple Sholom Learning Center as a 2nd grade teacher! She is currently a 3rd year nursing student at the University of Bridgeport and is excited to work as a pediatric nurse. She lives in Stamford with her parents, three siblings, and her cat, Beluga.

Bracha Moshe  
3rd Grade Teacher

Bracha has been teaching for the last 50 years and continues to love it very much. She was born and educated in Israel and received her Teaching Diploma before doing her service in the army. When she arrived in the U.S., she continued her education towards a Masters degree in Sociology, as well as one in English Literature. Bracha tutors B’nai Mitzvah students for their big special day - teaching them to chant their Torah & Haftarah portion and giving them the confidence and preparation to participate in a service as a young adult.

Benjamin Ottenstein  
2nd Grade Teacher

Ben is excited to begin teaching 2nd grade at Temple Sholom this year. He is also currently working at Westchester Torah Academy in Harrison, NY. Ben holds a BA in History from Muhlenberg College and a Master’s Degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. As a student, he interned at the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary, as well as the Center for Jewish History. Ben currently lives in New Rochelle, where he is an active member of his Jewish community.

Jeff Siegel  
3rd Grade Teacher

This is Jeff’s seventh year at Temple Sholom, where he looks forward to every day with kitah gimmel students. He enjoys teaching Hebrew and Jewish Studies through games, stories, interactive experiences and projects, and sharing his love for all things Jewish. Jeff has taught in both elementary and religious schools for the past 30+ years, and has spent his summers working with children at camp. Most of those years were spent teaching in Greenburgh Central Schools and working at Mohawk Day Camp, both in White Plains, NY. Jeff holds Masters Degrees in Elementary Education from Queens College, and Social Work from Yeshiva University.

Jordan Rastegar  
3rd Grade Teacher

This is Jordan’s first year teaching at TSLC. He gained a base knowledge of the Hebrew language at Bi-Cultural Day School, (now Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy), and learned how to speak Hebrew during his IDF service as a Machal soldier. Since leaving the IDF, he has staffed Birthright in order to keep in touch with his roots in Israel. Currently, he is enrolled at CCSU and is majoring in Economics and minoring in Earth Sciences. He also coaches tennis and is a youth instructor for Beta Climbing + Fitness in Stamford, CT, an indoor rock climbing gym.

Richard Corn  
4th Grade Teacher

Richard is a veteran teacher, having taught students with learning differences in New York City for over 30 years. He has also taught Hebrew school in Scarsdale for the same length of time. Other work experience includes lecturing on cruise ships. A University of Michigan graduate, Richard loves his grandchildren, art, the Wolverines, and teaching.
Debbie Morgenthaler is thrilled to be joining the TSLC faculty, this year. She enjoys being in a nurturing and supportive environment, where the development of a lifelong love of Judaism is the prime focus. Debbie has been working with children of all ages in the Stamford area for over 30 years. In addition to being a first grade teacher at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, she also has taught Hebrew and religious school to a variety of grades in Stamford, Westport and Rye, NY. In her spare time, she likes to read and garden, and lives in Stamford with her husband and three children.

Ezra serves as the Chazan Sheini/Ritual Director and the primary Bar/Bat Mitzvah tutor. He celebrated his 20th year at Temple Sholom in 2017. In addition to assisting with services, Ezra also teaches Hebrew in the Temple Sholom Learning Center. He was born in New York City and raised in Connecticut by a family of cantors. Ezra was educated at Solomon Schechter Day School in Woodbridge, CT, and earned his BA in English from Southern Connecticut State University. Ezra and his wife Robin play an active role in many synagogue programs. They currently live in Westchester with their daughter, Hannah, and son, Max.

Yehudis returns to Temple Sholom after working as a teacher in the religious school while she was a student at Purchase College in the early 90’s. Since then, she has received smicha as both a cantor and a rabbi, and is the spiritual leader of Congregation B’nai Israel in Freeport, NY. Most importantly, she brings over 20 years of love, passion, and commitment to teaching Hebrew and Jewish Studies to children and adults of all ages. Yehudis lives in Westchester, NY, with her two children, David and Zamira, and dog, Tali.

Mark has been teaching students at the Temple Sholom Learning Center since 2017. He is a graduate of McGill University in Montreal, Canada and the University of Bridgeport School of Law. Mark is a life-long resident of Stamford, CT, and has been actively involved in the Jewish community for many years having worked closely with many of our Jewish schools and non-profit organizations. Mark and his wife, Sharon, live in Stamford, and have three children, Zev, Doron and Liat.

For the past four years, Doron has been a substitute teacher at TSLC while he was a student at the University of Connecticut. During college, he held executive board positions in several of UConn’s Jewish organizations and through them created an extra curricular Hebrew class for his fellow students which catered to all levels of knowledge. Currently, Doron is an Educational and Behavioral Assistant, working at a specialized school for students with disabilities. He holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychological Sciences and certifications in Behavioral Therapy and CPR.

Tomer returns for his second year at TSLC. He is a full-time Hebrew teacher at Hannah Senesh Community Day School in Brooklyn, NY. He also works as an explainer in the American Museum of Natural History with all different age groups. He also worked for New York Junior Tennis and Learning, and is a tennis coach, coaching the United Nation International School Varsity team. Tomer is completing his Master degree in Education - Teaching Hebrew as a Second Language at Middlebury College.

Yehudis Sokol
4th & 6th Grade Teacher

Mark Feller
6th Grade Teacher

Doron Feller
5th Grade Teacher

Tomer Yanay
6th Grade Teacher
Sarah Baden
7th & 8th Grade Teacher

Sarah is excited to oversee TSLC’s Social Action Sundays program for 7th/8th graders. She is currently working towards her Masters in Social Work at the University of Connecticut. Sarah has a strong Judaic background having attended Bi-Cultural Day School, as well as the Solomon Schechter School in Westchester. While earning her BA in Psychology from the University of Hartford, she taught hebrew school at Emanuel Temple for four years. Sarah also currently works part time for Jewish Family Services in Greenwich.

Isabella Crasto
Madricha

Isabella (who also goes by Bella) is a sophomore at Greenwich High School. She has gone to religious school at Temple Sholom since 3rd grade and became a Bat Mitzvah in 2019. Bella likes to go on bike rides, play golf, and spend time with family and friends. She is so excited to be a madricha and to be working with the younger students!

Daniel Sosin
Madrich

Daniel is an 11th grade student at Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, New York. He graduated from the Selma Maisel Nursery School in 2008. Daniel lives in Rye Brook with his parents and two sisters.

Jacqueline Weinberg
Madricha

Coming soon!