

**TEMPLE BETH AM TUTORS  
(as of 5.31.18)**

**COVNER, Claire**

425-445-4898

[clairecov1@gmail.com](mailto:clairecov1@gmail.com)

**GOLDBERG, Leisa**

[Buddah007@mac.com](mailto:Buddah007@mac.com)

206-779-3463

**KARP, Yonah**

206-841-1904

[yonahkarp@gmail.com](mailto:yonahkarp@gmail.com)

**KINTZER, Jason**

206-387-1845

[jasonkintzer@me.com](mailto:jasonkintzer@me.com)

**LEVINE, Stephanie**

253-905-8092

[Stephlevine725@gmail.com](mailto:Stephlevine725@gmail.com)

**MASSARANO, Deborah**

402-598-5430

[bethamdebbie@gmail.com](mailto:bethamdebbie@gmail.com)

**PNINI, Boaz**

206-792-9961

[boazpnini@gmail.com](mailto:boazpnini@gmail.com)

**PRICE, Danielle**

785-727-0207

[danielle.j.price@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.j.price@gmail.com)

**TINIANOV, Rebecca**

206-422-4115

[Rebco10@yahoo.com](mailto:Rebco10@yahoo.com)

All of the above individuals have extensive experience in B'nai Mitzvah tutoring. Unless you have received special permission from our rabbis and educators to use an outside tutor, it is requested that you choose your tutor from this approved list.

**CLAIRE COVNER**

Phone: 425-445-4898 /e-mail: [clairecov1@gmail.com](mailto:clairecov1@gmail.com)

Rate: \$40 per 1 hr lesson

Meeting Place: Temple Beth Am or your house (depending on location)

**BIO:**

I have been involved in Jewish education my entire life, both as a learner and a teacher. I attended the Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle through eighth grade, where I began to develop my relationship with the community and interest in Jewish learning and teaching. Starting after my own Bat Mitzvah in 2007, I was a TA at Herzl-Ner Tamid Conservative Congregation for five years, working with upcoming B'nai Mitzvah students. In addition, I worked as a B'nai Mitzvah tutor at Herzl-Ner Tamid throughout that time and in high school.

I graduated from the University of Washington in 2016 with a degree in Business Administration. During my time in school, I was a Hebrew and Torah trope teacher at Temple Beth Am's Religious School. I have an extensive understanding of teaching Hebrew, Torah trope, and prayers from all my past experiences.

I am flexible working with all types of students regardless of level. I believe that a comfortable environment makes for an enjoyable B'nai Mitzvah prep experience and I encourage students to learn according to their personal abilities, skills, and preferred methods of learning. I have a low-key and relaxed style, but I still make sure to push students to reach their fullest potentials. I truly enjoy being a part of students' journeys as they work toward becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah. My hope is they take away as much as possible from this experience and have fun with the process.

References available upon request.

## LEISA GOLDBERG

Phone: 206-779-3463 / e-mail: [Buddah007@mac.com](mailto:Buddah007@mac.com)

Rate: 45 minute lesson/\$70, 1 Hour lesson/\$80 In the event of scheduling conflicts, I will offer Skype or other teleconferencing options \$55 per 30 minutes.

Meeting Place: Temple Beth Am or my house near the Lake Forest Park Town Center

### BIO:

If families feel that they need a head start on preparation, I am happy to begin with meeting a few times a month at first and then move to once per week as we get closer.

***My goal is that each student will have an individualized study plan, based on their learning style. I will fully assess each student at the beginning of our time together in order to help he/she be most successful. Most importantly, I want the experience of both the student and the parents to be as stress-free and joyous as possible!***

My career as a Jewish educator began in high school 30 years ago when I started tutoring students for their bar/bat mitzvahs at my conservative synagogue in Columbus, Ohio. I've come full circle! Since that time I've been working almost non-stop in the Jewish communities where I've lived.

I am a born teacher. I love working with kids and secondary education is my specialty. I have a BA in Theatre and English from Indiana University and a degree in secondary education from Seattle Pacific University. I spent seven years teaching English in the International Baccalaureate program at Edmonds-Woodway High School. For two years I worked as a private English, writing and SAT tutor for high school students.

In the Seattle Jewish community, I've worked for 20 years as a secondary Jewish educator. I taught 7th grade at Herzl Ner Tamid, 6th and 7th grades at Temple Beth Shalom, 9-12th grades at the Community High School of Jewish Studies and this is my sixth year teaching 6th grade at TBA. Little known fact-I was the youth group advisor for TBA in the mid-nineties when when Rabbis Beth and Jonathan first started. I also developed the bar/bat mitzvah curriculum used in all of the 6th grade Hebrew classes.

I am a member of TBA and both of my children attend Hebrew school and my daughter had her bat mitzvah last year and will be a madrichah this year. I really enjoy working with the b'nai mitzvah students one on one and I look forward to meeting you.

## YONAH KARP

Phone: 206-841-1904 / e-mail: [yonahkarp@gmail.com](mailto:yonahkarp@gmail.com)

Rate: \$60 per 50-minute session

Meeting Place: My house (.9 mile due west of Temple) or Temple Beth Am

### BIO:

I have been involved in Jewish education since I was 14, as an assistant teacher in the Columbus, Georgia Reform congregation my family traveled an hour each way to attend. I have been engaged with Reform and Conservative Judaism – liberal Judaism – much of my life, and am particularly interested in increasing Jewish knowledge so that we, as liberal Jews, can make the best-informed decisions we can. My family (husband and three kids) is a member of both Beth Shalom and Beth Am, after spending a number of years at each synagogue separately. People ask me why and my answer is always the same – you can never have enough community. The idea of “post-denominational Judaism” has a very strong appeal to me.

I teach the trope my mother (z”l) taught me for my Bat Mitzvah decades ago. It is special for me to be able to chant it and to pass it along; as a girl attending the Minneapolis Talmud Torah in the 40’s, my mother wasn’t allowed to ‘officially’ learn trope, so she was way ahead of her time – she pushed enough that she got the teachers to point her in the right direction to learn. While today’s students might not appreciate what a gift it is to be able to learn, that struggle is an essential part of becoming a Jewish adult – to wrestle with both ancient and modern texts, with a language not our first, with the idea of giving old stories modern meaning. I am open to the questions students have in their journey to the day of becoming Bar/ Bat Mitzvah – that journey is more important, I believe, than the day itself. Studying is an integral part of that struggle to become a Jewish adult – without knowledge, I believe, you cannot find your own authentic answers. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to be part of that process.

I have taught B’nai Mitzvah students at TBA since fall of 1997, both children and adults (I taught Hebrew to the first three Adult B’nai Mitzvah classes) and appreciate the trust and responsibility families give me. While I have not been on the ‘official’ list for a couple of years, I have taught numerous students. My most recent students are my son and one of his best friends, who had their B’nai Mitzvah (respectively) in August and September, 2013. I also taught my older daughter, whose Bat Mitzvah was January of 2010. I have chanted the entire Torah, after a student’s dad asked me if I had done so in 2002 – I decided that I really wanted to take that on, so nighttime bedtime singing with my two-year-old son became a section of the Torah. This chanting, which I continued the following year, deepened not only my knowledge and appreciation for the Torah and its vocalization, but the struggle to understand various very challenging sections of the Torah (which aren’t usually read in the Reform Movement).

I also worked as cantorial soloist, primarily for High Holidays, in various congregations in Washington State from 1998 through 2004. Having my third child and eventually returning to full-time professional work has delayed my continuing that work; I hope to continue this in the future.

I look forward to meeting you and your child. References are available upon request.

## **JASON KINTZER**

Phone: 206-387-1845 / Email: [jasonkintzer@me.com](mailto:jasonkintzer@me.com)

Rate: \$125 per hour

Meeting Place: flexible

### **BIO:**

“Teaching a love of Judaism at this essential time of your child’s life”.. that is our goal.

Jason Kintzer is an enthusiastic Judaics teacher with 30-plus years of experience. Jason’s focus on Bar and Bat mitzvah tutoring is helping students learn to lead and understand the prayers, chant Torah and Haftorah, gaining synagogue skills and assist with the Dvar Torah. Students find the process fulfilling and inspiring. Just ask the hundreds of previous students.

A graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary, Jason is an active leader at Seattle’s Congregation Beth Shalom and a beloved teacher of Beth Shalom Synagogue, Beth Am, and The Kavana Co-Op. Students learn a melodic and uplifting chanting style that infuses their prayer with spiritual depth.

Jason’s personalized teaching approach reflects each students’ goals, interests and abilities.

**Our Mission:** Working together as a team so each student has a positive experience and comes away with an increased knowledge and love of Judaism and parents feel part of the process. **The way it should always be!**

**Stephanie Levine** [stephlevine725@gmail.com](mailto:stephlevine725@gmail.com)

Cell: 253-905-8092

Fees: \$50 - \$60 per hour lesson, depends on location

Meeting Place: your house, my house (Edmonds, 3 miles from the Shoreline Costco),  
Temple Beth Am

I am a WA State Certificated Teacher with endorsements in Early Childhood through grade 12 Special Education and K-8 Psychology. Prior to relocating to Edmonds and joining Temple Beth Am summer of 2014, my teaching experience includes 19 years with the University Place School District as well as Hebrew for students in grades 3 through 7 at Temple Beth El in Tacoma, WA. I am experienced and comfortable working with students of all abilities and learning styles. I have engaged in Skype, FaceTime, and Google video lessons when I or students are traveling or an occasional NW snow keeps us 'off the roads'. I have worked with B'Nai Mitzvah students for more than 17 years teaching prayer, Torah, and Haftarah Trope. At Temple Beth, I served as a B'Nai Mitzvah coordinator, lay service leader, Torah reader/chanter for Shabbat and Days of Awe services, member of various committees, and terms as President of both its Sisterhood and Congregation. Currently, I am a member of Temple Beth Am's choir, Religious Practice, and Sisters' Leadership Committees.

While raising 3 sons, I was also involved in school, sports, and community library programs and understand and work around the challenges families encounter as they balance secular and religious life.

My involvement in Jewish Education is part of my identity, as both a student and a teacher. There is no better way of walking the l'dor va dor path than connecting with, guiding, and teaching the next generation, and often their families as well. As a student of Torah, I too experience and understand the challenges all students experience when preparing to read/chant and understand Torah. A B'Nai Mitzvah tutor plays an often brief, sometimes long term, role in a young person's life as a coach, mentor, or another adult (other than parents) supporting them as they prepare for their place in both our Jewish community, as well as general society. It has always been an honor for me to work with students and their families while preparing for B'Nai Mitzvah.

Clergy and parent references are available upon request.

## **DEBORAH (Debbie) MASSARANO**

Phone: 402-598-5430 / e-mail: [bethamdebbie@gmail.com](mailto:bethamdebbie@gmail.com)

Rate: \$70 per 50 minute session (negotiable)

Meeting Place: Your house, Temple Beth Am, or my house (I live in Lynnwood)

### **BIO:**

My goal as a tutor is to provide a positive Jewish learning experience for my students. I have tutored for 30+ years and have an expertise in creating meaningful learning opportunities. I believe the tutoring experience is about creating relationships – between me and my student and his/her family, my student and Torah, and my student and their Jewish community.

I have a Masters in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute for Religion. I have been involved as a Jewish professional from the age of 16 – as a Religious School Teacher. I have taught in public schools and Jewish Day schools. I have been a camp counselor and director. I have, most recently, been the Director of Lifelong Learning at two Reform congregations (Dallas and Omaha).

I love creating fun and creative ways to guide my students' learning. I also use this creative approach with great success in working with students with differing needs.

I look forward to working with your family to create a vibrant and meaningful learning experience.

Please email me if you would like a list of references.

## **BOAZ PNINI**

CANTOR AND BAR/BAT MITZVAH TUTOR

Phone: 425-745-8560 / e-mail: [boazpnini@gmail.com](mailto:boazpnini@gmail.com)

Rate: \$50 for 45 minutes lesson.

Meeting Place: Flexible

### **BIO:**

**About me:** Preparing Bar/Bat Mitzvah students became my passion over the last few years. I feel privileged to teach my students and enjoy it a lot and hope to help your son or daughter entering the adult and the Jewish life feeling proud of who they are and what they are part of.

**My tutoring philosophy:** I learn from my students what the best way is for each of them to be taught. No two students are the same and therefore no two students are instructed in the same way. I am also trying to impart through my tutoring the sense of what it will be like for them to approach being an adult and interacting in adult ways.

**Location:** I hold my lessons at Temple Beth Am and sometimes at Emanuel Congregation nearby. I also offer skype lessons which allow for more flexibility on both sides and no schlepping. Skype lessons work very well with most students.

**My commitment and responsibility** is to make the best out of each lesson, and to keep you informed as to his/her progress. I make recordings for the student to practice with.

**The Bar/Bat Mitzvah student responsibility:** Practice enough between lessons so that we can learn new material each lesson. For most students this means at least 15 minutes **EVERYDAY**. The purpose of the lessons is to polish what we have learnt and learn new material.

**My style:** I let my students know how she or he is progressing, and what it will take to get there and do well, so that they may own their own success. I often ask them questions to help them find for themselves the reasons for having a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, so they may choose to put their heart into it.

**Learning disabilities:** I have been trained, certified and worked (HANDLE Institute) with children with special needs for 3 years. I have been training children with Learning disabilities for their Bat/Bar Mitzvah for many years and I love doing it. It is always preferable to start their preparation as early as possible even if it means meeting only twice a month for a while. Please feel free to call and consult me without obligation.

**Voice training:** I have been trained as a Cantor. I am integrating voice training into the lessons, especially in the last month.

**References:** You may contact any of my current or previous students.

**Finally:** It is your Bar/Bat-Mitzvah, I am here to make it the best experience for you.

Looking forward to working with you.

**DANIELLE PRICE**

Phone: 785-727-0207 / e-mail: [danielle.j.price@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.j.price@gmail.com)

Rate: \$40-\$45 per hour, depends on location

Meeting Place: Temple Beth Am or another mutually agreeable place

**BIO:**

My family and I moved from Kansas to the Seattle area in July 2016. We immediately fell in love with Temple Beth Am and are happy to be part of a fantastic Jewish community!

I grew up as the daughter of a Reform rabbi. My career in Jewish education began in high school. I have more than fifteen years of experience preparing students for their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. For ten years I was involved with Bar and Bat Mitzvah preparations in the Lawrence and Kansas City areas. I worked with students and their families to help make their ceremonies meaningful and special. I helped coordinate preparations with rabbis and cantors, and I also frequently served as the sole officiant for Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies.

I have worked with students from all different backgrounds, traditions, and learning styles, and I am committed to the success of all my students. I know that you can't use one approach for all students, so I will put together a Bar/Bat Mitzvah plan based on their challenges and strengths. I have the willingness, flexibility, and creativity to help give students and their families a positive and meaningful experience. As a former community lay leader and a music performer, I have the skills to foster in each student confidence in their abilities and get them ready for their landmark day!

If needed, Skype is an option.

References available upon request.

**REBECCA TINIANOV**

206-422-4115 / [Rebco10@yahoo.com](mailto:Rebco10@yahoo.com)

Fee: \$50 for an hour session

Meeting location: Temple Beth Am, your place, my place on First Hill

**BIO:**

After my Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Am (TBA), I made the important decision to stay involved in the Jewish community. I worked as a Madrichah in the TBA Religious School for five years working with students one-on-one or in small groups to develop their Hebrew literacy and Jewish knowledge. My love of working with Jewish youth led me to work at Camp Kalsman and to begin B'nai Mitzvah tutoring in 2014.

I really enjoy working with my students, getting to know their unique personalities, and watching them grow. I am happy to work with students of all levels, as I tailor my style and lesson plan to the individual. In tutoring, I aim to provide my students with the tools to succeed. Beyond teaching the tunes for the prayers and Torah, I show them how to be effective in their practice outside of our sessions. My students have said that working with me was not stressful, I was patient, and they liked the detailed instructions I gave and being asked how they felt about the process and experience.

This is an exciting time in the lives of my students and their families, and I want them to enjoy it and be as prepared as possible. While I keep the parents informed, my hope is that my student takes responsibility for his/her studies, and will ask for help when needed. Also, I hope to encourage and inspire my students to remain involved in the Jewish community.