

Meet Our Staff

Miriam Dobin, Religious School Director

Welcome to Neve Shalom! My name is Miriam Dobin or better known as Morah Miriam to the children and their families. My connection to Neve Shalom began twenty years ago when I taught second and sixth grades. I also began the Holocaust curriculum for the sixth grade. This year I returned as Head Teacher and Program Director at Neve Shalom Religious School. I am a licensed teacher in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and Special Education and have over twenty-five years of classroom experience. I graduated Yeshiva University Stern College for Women with a degree in Education and received my certification as Teacher of the Handicapped from Kean University.



I believe for optimal learning, a variety of topics and experiences must be presented. In this way, each child's individual strengths and creativity will shine through. Imagine how much more so when using our love of Judaism as our guide.

I have also written a biographical memoir titled *I Am Because of You*, depicting my life as an only child of Holocaust survivors. In my spare time I am actively involved in Holocaust education for all ages and am deeply committed to furthering knowledge of this period in history. I live in Highland Park with my husband, Yaakov, have three children, and we are the proud grandparents of five delicious granddaughters. I enjoy reading, walking, traveling, and spending time with family. I am looking forward to another great year at Neve Shalom.

Elise Berlin



From the Yeshiva of Flatbush for both elementary and high schools, to a year of learning in Jerusalem, Jewish education is second nature to Elise Berlin. She is an award winner of the Grinspoon Steinhart Award for Excellence in Judaic teaching and has been teaching at Congregation Neve Shalom and Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva for the past 23 years. She is looking forward to teaching *Parshat Hashavua*, weekly Torah portion, Jewish Ethics, Hebrew Language, *Chagim*, holidays and *Tefillah*, prayer to the fourth and fifth grades this upcoming September. Elise chose Jewish-education as a professional career to satisfy her desire to spread a love for Judaism to all. Her husband Sam, children Talia, Britt, Daniella, Zacky and son-in-law Yitzy all enjoy and share in her enthusiasm for Judaism, as well.

Lincoln Richman

Lincoln Richman is the Song Leader and Judaic Specialist at the NJY Camps -- America's largest Jewish sleep-away camp -- in Milford, Pennsylvania. During the school year, Lincoln teaches at Golda Och Academy as well as in three Hebrew schools including Neve Shalom in Metuchen, Ner Tamid in Bloomfield, and Bnai Keshet in Montclair. In 2016, Lincoln graduated from Rutgers University with a Master's Degree in Social Work and a Graduate Certificate in Jewish Studies. Lincoln's undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Fine Arts from New York University where he was a Film major.

Lincoln will be teaching seventh grade and Hebrew High School at Neve this year.



Sarah Young



Sarah Young is a dynamic and creative Jewish educator who uses creativity to infuse all her lessons with excitement! She has taught at many different Religious Schools over the years and is excited to join the Neve Shalom community! Sarah has a certificate in Jewish education from Midreshet Lindenbaum in Israel. In addition to being a Jewish educator she is also an artist. Her artwork appears in many publications including The Forward, 613, Hadassah Magazine and the Shofar Journal of Jewish Studies. She earned her MFA in visual art from Hunter College and is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. Sarah is also a certified yoga teacher who enjoys teaching yoga and movement to children. Sarah lives in Highland Park with her husband who is also a Jewish educator, a Rabbi, and her two boys. She is looking forward to teaching the incoming Kindergarten/1st grade class.

Mindy Schaper

My name is Mindy Schaper, and my Jewish education was absorbed through a K-12 Yeshiva education, plus studying abroad in Israel. It was rounded off with a Judaic Studies degree from the University of Memphis, where I also completed a BA in Psychology and English. I am currently completing an MBA program at Rutgers while working at a professional services company. Married with two children, I live in Linden, NJ, and enjoy literature, politics, music, gardening, and the pursuit of dreams. I am looking forward to teaching *Chagim*, Jewish holidays, *Nevi'im*, Prophets, and Israel to the second and third grade class.



Naava Hess

My name is Naava Hess. I live in Linden, and have resided there for ten years. I have been an educator for over seventeen years, teaching children from ages three through fourteen. I have four children, ages sixteen, fourteen, thirteen, and ten. I love to travel, and to partake in nature. I'm looking forward to teaching the 2nd/3rd grade and conducting the *Horim V'yekarim* (Parents & Dear Ones) class for 5th/7th grades.