

## Meet Our Staff

### Miriam Dobin

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 three delicious granddaughters. I enjoy reading, walking, traveling, and spending time with family. I am looking forward to my new role as Religious School Director 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 Bible Studies, Parshat Hashavua, Jewish Ethics, Hebrew Language, Holidays and prayer to the sixth and seventh 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 in four Hebrew schools including Neve Shalom in Metuchen, Oheb Shalom in South Orange, 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 at Neve this year.



## Michelle Caravella

Shalom! My name is Michelle Caravella. While growing up, I was a student at the Neve Shalom Hebrew School. I had several Hebrew School teachers that made lasting impressions on me and it's thanks to those teachers that I continue with my passion for education. I recently got married to my wonderful Husband, Ryan. We live in East Brunswick with our adorable cat, Avery! In addition to teaching Hebrew School for the past several years, I also teach students with Multiple Disabilities at Lakeview School in Edison. When I'm not teaching, I thoroughly enjoy crafting and spending time outside with my friends and family. I'm very excited to be teaching third and fourth graders at Neve Shalom once again! Looking forward to a great year.



## Cindy Baruch

My name is Cindy Baruch. I have been teaching at Neve Shalom for over 20 years. I have taught at Rábbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva and the Yeshiva of the Jersey Shore. For the past 4 years I have been teaching at Netivot- the Jewish Montessori yeshiva in East Brunswick. I am married to Mitch for the past 29 years and have 2 sons- Adam who is married to Rebecca and a single son named Mark. In my spare time I like to walk and spend time with my family. I'm looking forward to teaching the third and fourth grades.



## Yair Sohn



Yair Sohn is a down-to-earth young educator with a strong dedication to the students he teaches. He has previously worked for Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains and Chabad in Union County. He strives to create lessons which are inspiring, captivating, and relevant. He spends much of his free time learning independently about any subject that captures his interest. He also enjoys biking, swimming, and playing basketball. Yair is the youngest of four and is currently going for his bachelor's degree in Accounting at Kean University. He is

excited to be teaching the Hebrew High School and has planned fascinating topics to engage his students.

## Aviva Berkovich

Hi! My name is Aviva Berkovich. I live in Highland Park with my husband for the last three-and-a-half years. I have been teaching for eighteen years, the majority of which has been in Religious Schools. Most recently I taught in Shomerei Torah in Wayne. I have worked with children of all ages including third and fourth graders, and this past year with kindergarten through second grade. For the past eleven years I have been working in Sinai schools as a Special Ed teacher focusing on Judaic studies. I am looking forward to teaching Gan through second grade.





## 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.