

Our Professional & Devoted Teachers

Our Hebrew School teachers are carefully selected for their professionalism, extensive knowledge of Judaism and for their dedication to children. Each teacher lives and breathes what she/he teaches, providing the best possible model for our students. Our teachers are as excited about teaching as our students are about learning!

Our loving and dedicated Teachers:

Kindergarten: Morah Dafna Smith



Quickly becoming one of our best and most loved teachers, Dafna Smith was born in Israel and is the daughter of the well known Israeli author and personality in Israel's history, known as Yehudah Lev.

Morah Dafna has taught elementary school in L.A. for over 9 years. Her love for music has taken her, with some of her students, to the Governor's Inauguration and the Hollywood Bowl. Her love for Judaism, coupled with her passion for music keeps her students excited and looking forward to coming to classes each week.

Kittah Aleph (1): Morah Chani Feldman

Morah Chani is no newcomer when it comes to teaching. She has taught Hebrew School in New York and Massachusetts and has worked with children in summer camps in Massachusetts and Orange County, CA. Chani's love and excitement for teaching, and the one-on-one attention she offers to the students, makes her the great educator that she is.

Kittah Bet (2): Mora Sandy Palmer



Sandy Palmer was raised in Israel. After High School she served the IDF and then went to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and studied Political Science. In 1979 she came to the United States and lived here ever since. Sandy got married and has 2 beautiful children. She was very involved in her children's schools and volunteered her time

being a room Mom and a Teachers-Aid, helping organize school projects. This led to a passion for teaching and has taught in Pre-school, Kindergarten and from 1st to 4th grade. Sandy is looking forward to working with the students of Hebrew School and teaching them about our Jewish Heritage and Culture.

Kittah Gimmel (3): Mora Laya Lisbon



Laya Lisbon was born in Australia and after graduating high school she spent a year abroad in Israel learning the language and taking courses in child development. In addition, she has received her ECE credits from UCLA.

Laya loves working with children. She has taught in both preschools and Hebrew Schools for the past 10 years. For the past 7 years Laya has lived in Redondo Beach with her husband, Rabbi Dovid and their 4 children. Laya teaches the Pre-K class in the Growing Garden Preschool and helps organize different programs at the Center.

Kittah Daled (4): Morah Sarah Lehat

Morah Sarah has been involved in education since her teens. She is a graduate of the Beit Chana Teachers Seminary in Safed, Israel and is an energetic and devoted educator who currently resides in the South Bay and is on staff at the Aleph Champ Central Office. She has been a tutor and mentor to her many students, and spent the past five years teaching both at the high school and elementary school level, at both Day Schools and at Hebrew Schools including teaching our sixth grade class last year.

Kittah Hey (5): Mr. Gal Shor



Gal was born in Israel, served in the IDF and has been the editor-in-chief of Shalom LA - the largest Hebrew newspaper on the West Coast. Gal now works for as an advocate for Israel by helping promote the goodness and truth about the Land of Israel and its people, specifically on campus, as the PR director of the non-profit organization Stand With Us. Gal lives here in the South Bay with his wife and two daughters and has been teaching and sharing his passion for Judaism and the Hebrew language with the students of Hebrew School for past three years.

Kittah Vov (6): Rabbi Zalman & Alta Gordon



Rabbi Zalman comes from a long line of accomplished Rabbis and runs the Adult Education Classes here at the Center. Rabbi Zalman grew up in Australia and his rabbinical schooling took him from New York to Jerusalem. Rabbi Zalman received his Rabbinical Ordination from The Rabbinical College of America's campus in New York.

Kittah Zayin (7): Rabbi Naftali Rottenberg



Rabbi Rottenberg grew up right here in Southern California and his rabbinical education took him from London to New York and Australia. It was in Australia that he ran many community educational activities and programs and received his Rabbinical Ordination. After getting married and settling down in Los Angeles, Rabbi Rottenberg began teaching for the past number years at the Hillel Hebrew Academy. Rabbi Rottenberg brings with him his, experience, devotion, patience and great teaching skills to our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class.