

■ BEIT AHAVAH COMMUNITY SCHOOL ■

Who Are the Teachers in Your Neighborhood

*We look forward to seeing you on the first day of School, Sunday, October 16 and getting to know you!
A sweet and happy new year ~ 2011-12/5772 - YOFIE Committee & the Teachers*

RABBI RIQI, Rabbi-Educator & B'nei Mitzvah Class

- **Rabbi Riqi Kosovske** feels wonderful about going into her fifth year at Beit Ahavah and seeing a whole generation of Jewish children grow up in a place where she gets to express Judaism creatively and passionately. Rabbi Riqi is thrilled with our teaching staff for the coming year, and she is enthusiastic about the great work of our YOFIE committee and synagogue and the nourishing programs ahead. Rabbi Riqi also works at Beit Chanina, for her almost seven year old son and his many pets including 2nd generation goldfish and Blackey the newt who is fed on Shabbos. Rabbi Riqi loves Beit Ahavah and loves working with the families and children.



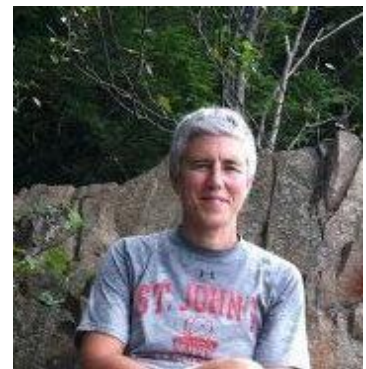
MORAH CHAYA, Gan-Aleph – Kindergarten-1st Grade



- **Chaya Bekermus** is a Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude graduate of UMASS Amherst. She has her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a specialization in Human Services and Developmental Disabilities. Chaya, who has grown up in NY, but who has always loved the state of Massachusetts, has extensive experience in Judaism, as she has grown up attending Jewish Day and High schools. Her love for teaching is also readily apparent for she has continued to educate students of various ages and religious backgrounds for the past six years. Post-high school and pre-college, Chaya has spent a year in Israel furthering the education of young Israeli children in Judaism and in the English language. Additionally, she has tutored students in a myriad of subjects as an undergraduate, as well as having served as a Teacher's Assistant for multiple professors for the Psych:100-Introduction into Psychology course. Chaya loves her Jewish heritage, children, and education! Thus, she happily accepts the position to work with the wonderful children and families of the community. Wishing all a wonderful year, Chaya sends her best!

MORAH JENNIFER, Bet - 2nd Grade

- **Jennifer Levi** is an experienced Religious School teacher having taught the 2nd-3rd grade last year, bringing intense passion for Torah, Judaism, Israel, ritual, knowledge and traditions to the children and families. One reason she loves to teach at Beit Ahavah is to spend meaningful time with her own children in the school, Isi and Hannah. Last year, when Jennifer was not trekking to the Resource Center for Jewish Education to get inspired for her lesson plans, or working at her job as a human rights attorney at GLAAD in Boston, Jennifer built the Ga-ga pit for the children to play the famous Israeli-inspired Jewish camp game in the Beit Ahavah back. We look forward to seeing what she has in store this year!



MORAH SHERI, Gimel-Dalet / 3rd-4th Grades

- **Sheri Levson** has been teaching Hebrew & Judaic Studies for 17 years. She is an elementary school teacher turned lawyer turned Jewish Educator. Sheri received her master's degree in Jewish Education at Hebrew College in Newton. She also teaches at Westfield's Ahavas Achim and at Sinai Temple (Reform) in Springfield, where her husband is Cantor Martin. Sheri has 2 teen/college children Alec and Liz, and a menagerie of furry pets (dogs, cats, chinchilla, fish, horse). She has "adopted" an Israeli foreign exchange student named Shir who will also come to Beit Ahavah for Israel programs. Sheri is involved in local theatre and in planning the Jewish Renewal movement's biennial "Aleph-Kallah" week-long retreat. She is also a choral singer with "Shiraz" and a Jewish paper-cut artist.



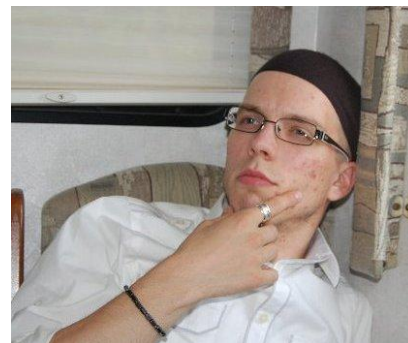
MOREH JOSH (Judaics) & MOREH BEN (Hebrew), Hey / 5th Grade



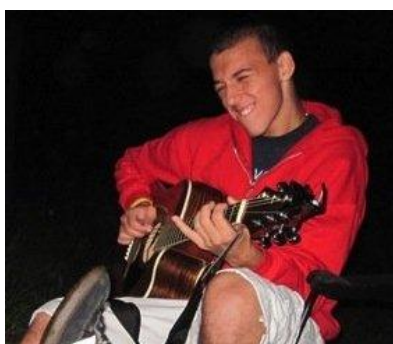
- **Ben Beraha** is in his last semester at UMASS pursuing a degree in Linguistics & Judaic Studies. He is excited to start his fourth year teaching at Beit Ahavah. Over the summers he worked at OSRUI (Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute), the Reform Jewish summer camp in Wisconsin with an intensive Hebrew language immersion program where he has served as Hebrew Coordinator. He loves guitar, Israeli music, Hebrew grammar, and bringing his love of Torah to children and teens through teaching. He is a sought-after Hebrew tutor.

- **Joshua Berkowitz** is a graduate from UMass Amherst with a BA in Classical Civilization and Linguistics. This will be his second year teaching at Beit Ahavah and he looks forward to his growth as a teacher and his contributions to Beit Ahavah, such as chanting Torah. Josh works as a nanny, or "manny," for a Jewish family with a preschooler and 2nd grader, and loves working with people of all ages.

He speaks a little bit of a lot of languages including quite a few obsolete ones. He is the human for a ball python named Cleopatra and two love birds named Chartreuse and Tourmaline. Josh enjoys pop music, making videos, painting Jewish art, and singing.



MOREH BRETT, Vav-Zayin / 6th-7th Grades



- **Brett Hausler** is a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is double majoring in Environmental Design and Social Thought & Political Economy. Brett grew up in Hartford, VT and spent the last six of seven summers at URJ Crane Lake Camp in West Stockbridge, MA. In 2008, he traveled with his peers to Eastern Europe and Israel for five weeks. Brett began working as a general counselor and song leader at Crane Lake in 2010 and continued with this outstanding experience during the summer of 2011; Brett also attended Hava Nashira, a song leading intensive retreat at OSRUI in Wisconsin started by Debbie Friedman. Beit Ahavah will be seeing Brett in the 6th/7th grade classes and also in front of the entire school for school-wide singing events and services! He looks forward to a great year of getting to know the Beit Ahavah community.

THURSDAY MIDWEEK HEBREW TEACHING TEAM:

- **Morah Dorit Weingarten, Moreh Ben Beraha, Morah Sheri Levson, Moreh Josh Berkowitz & Rabbi Riqi**



- **Morah Dorit Weingarten** returns with her warmth and skill on Thursdays to teach our newest midweek students. Dorit also teaches 1st grade Hebrew and Judaics at Lander-Grinspoon Academy. She is a native Israeli. Dorit utilizes immersion style teaching with the children and imparts her wonderful accent and love of learning to them with a strong basis for future Hebrew learning. Dorit graduated from the prestigious Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel in 2008 and then moved with her husband to Amherst. This year she is also teaching us what the word “*b’herayon*” means and when to wish someone “*b’shaah tovah!*” (First assignment is to figure those out by looking at her...)

MADRICHIM (Teen Teaching Assistants):



- **Henry Seftel-Siegel**

- **Isabel Snodgrass**

- **Sarah Spound**

- **And more of our teens!**

