

Administrative Staff**Early Childhood Education****MARGIE ZESKIND | Director of Early Childhood Education**

Margie holds a Master's degree in pre-k/primary education. She is the past director of the Helene and A. B. Wiener Early Childhood Department for the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education in Miami, Florida, where she provided professional resources and consultation for staff development, mentoring, and leadership development for early childhood education directors and educators from 21 Jewish early childhood programs for 13 years. Prior to this position, Margie was an early childhood educator in a Reform synagogue setting for nine years. She got her start in Jewish early childhood education, as a PTO/Parent Volunteer, when her two sons, Sam and Ben (now adults), were in their Jewish early childhood program. Margie has been in the field of Jewish Early Childhood Education since 1984 and began her tenure as Director of Early Childhood Education at Temple Beth Sholom in 2007.

Margie@tbsmb.org | 305.538.7231 ext. 227

**STACY PENSON | Lead Morah (Teacher) and PTO Liaison**

Stacy graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Education. She holds a certificate in Early Childhood Education as well. She is trained in helping children learn to read and enjoys sharing literacy with children. She has been teaching since 1990 and at the Foundation school since 1999. Her hobbies include reading and exercising. She enjoys spending time on the beach with her family, husband John, **and** daughters Marley, Delila, and Ruby. She believes that every child has a voice and commits herself to being in the moment with them. She is eager to work with teachers, children, and families as Foundation School's Lead Morah.

Stacy@tbsmb.org | 305.538.7231 ext. 229

**DIANA BURNET | Admin. Asst. of Early Childhood Education**

Diana was born in Ohio but moved to Miami so long ago that she has forgotten what turn signals are! She began her working life in retail sales and management, honed her professional skills in sales and marketing, but found her true happiness as Administrative Assistant for Early Childhood Education at Temple Beth Sholom. Diana is active volunteering with local social and political organizations.

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**DELDR A OWENS | Admin. Asst. of Education, After School, Camp**

Deldra has been a part of Temple Beth Sholom since 2005. She transitioned from teacher to administrative assistant for the Education Department in February 2012. Deldra graduated from Florida A & M University in the Spring of 2008 with a degree in Political Science. She enjoys reading, music, and traveling. Deldra is excited to continue her journey with Temple Beth Sholom.

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Teaching Staff**Foundation School****RACHEL ADAMS | Assistant Teacher**

Rachel joined the teaching team at The Foundation School in 2009 and looks forward to each new exciting year of growth and discovery! She grew up in Delaware and moved to Miami in 1997. Rachel has earned the National Child Development Associate Credential. Rachel has two young boys. She and her family are happy to be a part of the Beth Sholom family!

**RACHEL ALLEN | Lead Teacher**

Rachel was born and raised in New York, where she completed her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She moved to Florida in May of 2012 and will graduate in December with her Master's in Early Childhood Special Education at the University of Miami. She is very active and athletic, and has played in the Pan Am Maccabi Games in Brazil with the Women's USA Soccer Team. She is passionate about working with kids and expanding her knowledge and experience at the Foundation School.

**OLEVA BENREY | Assistant Teacher**

Oleva Benrey was born and raised in Miami Beach and grew up at Temple Beth Sholom. She earned a BBA in International Marketing and Finance from the University of Miami and worked in banking for over 20 years. After being inspired by the creativity and dedication of her childrens' teachers at North Beach Elementary, she decided that she wanted to become a teacher. In 2001, Oleva graduated with a Masters of Science in Elementary Education from Barry University. Oleva has taught the primary grades at both public and private schools in Miami, but her favorite subject that she likes to teach is English as a Second Language. She has also taught Shabbat School at Temple Beth Sholom for 15 years. Oleva has a daughter, Jennifer, and a son, Andrew, who have been coming to Beth Sholom since preschool. Oleva loves singing, dancing, and acting. She also enjoys nature, the beach, and cooking. Her passion is learning foreign languages. Oleva can speak Spanish and Hungarian, and some French and Hebrew.

**BANI BHALLA | Lead Teacher**

Bani Bhalla was a parent in the Foundation School when she fell in love with the culture and energy of the community. Her son, Rahul, is a pre-k graduate! Bani has an Honors degree in Psychology from India and has early childhood teaching experience from Allentown, PA prior to joining the TBS Foundation School as a staff member in 2008. Bani lived in Nairobi, Kenya for almost a decade where she taught elementary school. She has always felt so at home at Temple Beth Sholom and is thrilled to be back, working alongside her TBS family!



STEPHANIE CARDONA | Assistant Teacher

Stephanie was born in Cali, Colombia. She came to the United States at the age of ten with her family. After graduation from High School in Aventura, she moved to New Jersey to study nursing. She has two beautiful boys, Miguel, born in 2008 and John David born in 2010. Stephanie began her career with The Foundation School as a substitute teacher in 2014 when her son John David was a student. She is happy to be a part of The Foundation School team.



KIM COETZEE | Lead Teacher

Kim is a native of Florida. She has an undergraduate degree in religion from the University of Georgia and a law degree from St. Thomas University. Her real claim to fame is the fact that she is a mother of three beautiful daughters! It is through them that she started teaching at the Foundation School. Kim has earned the National Child Development Associate Credential.



FELIZA D'ABREU | Lead Teacher

Feliza D'Abreu is originally from the Philippines. She holds an Elementary Education Degree from the Philippines, an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education, and has earned the National Child Development Associate Credential. Feliza has been a pre-school teacher since 2001. She is married with a son. She loves life and wishes everyone *shalom!*



RACHEL EBENER | Lead Teacher

Rachel Ebener grew up in Miami and graduated from Florida International University with a degree in Marketing. She has been teaching gymnastics since 2002 and working in schools since 2007. She is excited to be a part of the Foundation School team.



ELSIE FERRER | Assistant Teacher

Elsie Ferrer was born in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. She has three sons and came to Miami in the summer of 2012. Elsie's heart was touched by children so she sought a position at the Foundation School. After working as a substitute teacher she joined the staff January 2013.

Elsie loves to teach; she worked as an Aesthetics Teacher for almost 25 years in the Technical-Vocational Schools in Puerto Rico, as a K-6 Teacher Assistant in Massachusetts for 5 years, as a bilingual teacher in elementary and middle school for four years in her own hometown.



JESSICA FRANCOEUR | Assistant Teacher

Jessica was born and raised in South Miami Florida. She studied classical voice at Southwood Middle school and Coral Reef High school. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Opera Performance from New World School of the Arts University.

Jessica recently sang the role of Hansel in Humperdinck's opera Hansel and Gretel. This opera was performed at Temple Beth Am with the accompaniment of The Alhambra Orchestra and conducted by Scott Flavin. She has also performed the roles of Papagana / First Sprit in Mozart's The Magic Flute, and the role of Amahl in Amahl and the Night Visitors.

Jessica enjoys the excitement of life and new experiences. She adores all children and loves animals, especially cats. She has a passion for entertaining and exotic foods. Her family is very important to her and she looks forward to creating a family of her own in the future.



SCARLET GEIGER | Lead Teacher

Scarlet was born in Curaçao, raised in Peru and lived for many years in Brazil. This combination of living in diverse places, among different cultures, and learning to adjust to new situations as a child, is one of the reasons she decided to become a teacher. As an early childhood educator, she seeks to create an enriched, loving and caring environment where children can learn through processing information and using their creativity. She also invites families to be part of the journey and together experience how our children develop cognitively and emotionally. Scarlet holds a Masters in Educational Therapy, a B.A. in Special and Elementary Education.



MONDA GJEKA-ARCH | Lead Teacher

Monda comes from Albania, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Education. While in Albania, she taught Albanian language and World Literature (Literacy) in high school until 2001 when she moved to the USA. Monda is extremely happy to be a citizen of this amazing country. She has been with the Temple Beth Shalom family since 2005 and has earned her CDA.



DIANA HYDE | Assistant Teacher

Diana joined our teaching staff in 2006 when her nephew and niece were Foundation School students. She has been part of our pre-school and summer camp and brings strong support and creativity to both programs. Diana enjoys being part of children's experiences and watching children learn, grow, explore and discover. Diana has earned the National Child Development Associate Credential.



JENNIFER LEVIN | Lead Teacher

Jennifer was born and raised in New Jersey. She graduated from Indiana University with a B.S. in Speech Language Pathology. After teaching Pre-K for a year, she moved to Florida, where she obtained her M.S in Pre-K through Primary Education from Nova Southeastern University.

Jennifer is a resident of Aventura. She has a two year old son Ryder who attends the Foundation School. In her free time she enjoys traveling, exercising, reading and spending time with her family. Jennifer has been part of the Temple Beth Sholom family since 2008.



LEE LEVY FRIEDMAN | Lead Teacher

Lee Levy Friedman came to the US from Israel. Since then she has worked in a Jewish day school. Lee has a B.A. in Art and Special Education from Haifa University. She is married with three beautiful children Yohshai, Ozzy and Roel. Lee and her family feel blessed to be part of Temple Beth Sholom community.



LISSET LEYVA | Lead Studio Teacher

Liset was born in Santiago de Cuba, Oriente where she lived until the age of nine. She spent most of her childhood and early adulthood in New York; however, she also lived in Madrid, Spain and Margarita, Venezuela. She attended NYIT in NY and Rutgers University in New Jersey. She graduated with a degree in Fine Arts. She was blessed with two beautiful children Ulysses and Ibel. Their birth marked the beginning of a change in her life as they inspired her interest in early childhood education. She considers her biggest reward the ability to reach not only the children but also their families by assisting them with the enhancement of their awareness of our responsibilities to earth, God, and love.



TENNILLE MAISNER | Assistant Teacher

Tennille Maisner was raised in Miami Beach and attended North Beach Elementary, Nautilus Middle School and Miami Beach Senior High. After graduating high school she studied for her B.A. in Music Education at Miami Dade College and FIU South. Tennille has completed her CDA credential here at Temple Beth Shalom. She has also been a part of all the youth programs and musical theater productions under the direction of Cantor Haas. Tennille is thrilled to be a part of the Temple Beth Shalom staff.



LUCIA MARTINO | Lead Teacher

Lucia Martino is originally from Spain where she was an early childhood educator, working with pre-school and kindergarten children and children with special needs at the Ronald McDonald House. She moved to Miami in 2009. Lucia joined The Foundation School as a substitute teacher in the fall of 2013 and as a staff member in 2014.

Lucia loves working with children. To help people and to be of service is the most important thing to her.



NANCY PASTERNAK | Lead Teacher

Nancy Pasternak is an educator from Argentina, with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education and the National Child Development Associate Credential. She relocated to Miami in 2000. Nancy became a teacher because of her love of working with children. She joined The Foundation School staff in 2007.

Nancy is married and has a daughter, who spent 3 years in The Foundation School before graduating from Pre-K. She hopes to help children build wonderful memories of their early childhood experience.



BRONWYN PHELAN | Assistant Teacher

Bronwyn was born and raised in Durban, South Africa, where she studied at the University of Natal for a degree in Arts and Science. Her and her immediate family moved to Miami in the early 1990's, and she has enjoyed being able to live so close to her family. She is married with two daughters, loves living in Miami, and is excited to join the family of Temple Beth Shalom.



REINA REYES | Assistant Teacher

Reina Reyes grew up around the Temple Beth Sholom community and joins The Foundation School staff after a tenure working for the temple's summer camp program. She holds a Bachelors degree in Social Work from Florida International University. Reina is very family oriented and loves helping people. She is fond of traveling and spending time with her friends.



BARBARA SCHPILBERG | Lead Teacher

Barbara grew up in Argentina and moved to Miami in 1997. She graduated Cum Laude from Florida International University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Barbara worked in the corporate world for more than 10 years, but her true passion has been always interacting with children and making a difference in people's lives. In her free time, Barbara practices CrossFit and enjoys building beautiful memories with her family at the beach, swimming pool and playgrounds. She is the proud mother of Victoria and they are both happy to be part of the Temple Beth Sholom family!



VERONICA SIELAWKO | Assistant Teacher

Veronica was born in Misiones, Argentina. When she finished high school she moved to Paraguay where she graduated with a BA in Marketing from Columbia University Paraguay.

Currently a student at Miami Dade College, Veronica is also an independent student of Philosophy. Her passions include traveling, writing, and reading... she never stops exploring! She enjoys art, diving, and being in nature where she finds true beauty through simplicity. She believes in guiding children to discover the beauty within it themselves.



GIULIANA SIERRALTA | Lead Teacher

Giuliana Sierralta was born in Peru and has lived in Miami since 1986. She recently earned a B.A in Psychology with an emphasis area in child development from Kaplan University. She graduated top of her class Summa Cum Laude with a 3.80 GPA. She also earned the National Child Development Associate Credential (CDA).Giuliana is the proud mother of Cole Young, who is a former student of the Foundation School. In her free time, Giuliana enjoys the beach, running, traveling, and spending time with her son and family.



RUTH STEIN | Assistant Teacher

Ruth Stein was born in Granada, Nicaragua, and has been living in Miami Beach since 1985. She started to work at Temple Beth Sholom as a Parent / Child Center teacher from 2002 to 2004. Then in 2011, Ruth joined The Foundation School team. She has earned the National Child Development Associate Credential, and she loves working with children. Ruth enjoys spending time with her husband and three children.



PARTICIA TOBON | Lead Teacher

Patricia Tobon was born in Colombia and moved to the United States in 1995. She has a Bachelors degree in Communications and Journalism. In 1998 she started working as an assistant teacher providing support for children that required behavioral supervision. There she found that her true passion in learning and working with children. Patricia joined the Temple Beth Sholom team working in the Parent/Child Center from 2007 to 2010 and is happy to rejoin the staff in 2015.

A yoga practitioner for more than ten years, she has been teaching yoga and mindful meditation to children in different facilities in Miami Beach.



ASHLEY WEISSMAN | Lead Teacher

Ashley is originally from Farmington Hills, Michigan. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan where she received a B.A. in Psychology. Ashley completed a dual master's degree in social work and child development at Loyola University Chicago and the Erikson Institute. She has been a teacher at The Foundation School since 2008.

Ashley lives in Miami Beach with her husband Stuart and daughter Emma. In her free time, Ashley enjoys traveling, exercising, and spending time with her family and friends.



IRMA ZELINGER | Assistant Teacher

Irma was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina and has been living in Miami Beach since 1981. In 2007, she received her National Child Development Associate Credential. Irma has been working in the Foundation School since 2003. Her passion for teaching children makes her an essential part of our staff.

Teaching Staff**Infant/Toddler Early Learning Center****SARA EBENER / Lead Supervisory Teacher for the Infant/Toddler Childcare Program**

Sara Ebener grew up in Miami Shores. She earned a B.S. in Behavioral Science with a background in Elementary Education from Barry University. Sara has worked in various schools and child care programs since 2002 and has been part of Temple Beth Shalom community since 2010. She enjoys reading, the beach and spending time with loved ones.

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**GÜLVER ALTINISIK | Assistant Teacher**

Gülvér Altinisik was born in Türkiye. She is married and has two sons and one grandson. She has been working at Temple Beth Shalom since 1996. She loves interacting with children and is happy to be part of the Temple Beth Shalom family. Gülvér has earned the National Child Development Credential.

**NURIA HURTADO CARRASCO | Assistant Teacher**

Nuria Carrasco was born in Seville, Spain to a family with three siblings. Her family still lives in Spain. She moved to Miami Beach with her husband Daniel, who is in the jewelry sales and repair business. They love the sun and the weather in Miami!

Nuria is currently studying Early Childhood Education and English as a second language. She really enjoys her work with babies and feels fortunate to be a part of their development. Her hobbies include reading books, walking, and traveling around the world with her husband.

**MARTHA LEYVA | Assistant Teacher**

Martha Leyva was born in Santiago de Cuba, Oriente, Cuba where she lived until the age of 14. She also lived in Madrid, Spain. She has a degree in Marketing and Merchandising. She enjoys traveling and has travelled to the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Thailand, Japan and the Dominican Republic. She has a handsome son name Johnhenry. She consider his birth the most important event in her life. She considers her life a blessing in all aspects. She is very happy to be part of the Infant/Toddler Children Program.



TERESA PROBST | Assistant Teacher

Teresa was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil and moved to Florida in 2007.

She graduated from UNISA University with a Bachelor's in Education, Visual Communications and holds a Master's in Educational Therapy. Teresa has two boys and two grandsons.