Meet Our Faculty

2018 - 2019
תשע"ט

Menaheles
Mrs. Chaya L. Eidelman

President
Mr. A. Joseph Stern

Vaad HaChinuch
Rabbi Aba Brudny
Rabbi Yechiel Drillman
Rabbi Yaakov Luban

רינת בית יעקב

ע"ש מרת פריידא בת זאב שטערן, ע"ה

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BRAINSTORM
OUR
QUESTIONS
ANSWERS
PRIORITIZE
STUDY
FUN
TIPS
STUDENT
LEARN
WRITE
TEST
ADVISE
REVIEW
TIME
QUIZ
WORK
SUPPORT
COUNSEL
SUCCESS
THINK
TRANSLATE
DEVELOP
GOALS
TECHNIQUE
SKILLS
PREPARE
TEAM
PRACTICE
MANAGE
REENAS BAIS YAAKOV


AMERICA

Mrs. Leila Apfel

Math

Mrs. Apfel graduated from Touro College with a B.S. in Actuarial Math and Finance. She worked in the corporate world of finance before moving into teaching. Mrs. Apfel has many years of experience as a private math tutor and has previously taught at Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion and Cheder Menachem. Mrs. Apfel's passion for math and her ability to simplify complex topics, enable her students to master the material.

Mrs. Bracha Avraham

English

Mrs. Avraham holds a B.A. in creative writing and marketing from the CUNY Baccalaureate Center as well as a Masters in English education, grades 7-12. She began her formal teaching career here at Reenas Bais Yaakov years ago, teaching 10th and 12th grades. Since then she has taught at Ilan High School, as well as at Bruriah High School where she currently still teaches. Mrs. Avraham enjoys the enthusiasm and fresh insight teenagers bring to the classroom, and is excited to bring her passion for literature and writing back to the wonderful girls at RBY.

חומש יהדות מחנכת

Mrs. Sara Backenroth

Chumash, Yehadus, Mechaneches

Mrs. Backenroth holds teaching degrees from both Bnos Chava Teaching Seminary and Bais Yaakov of Montreal Teachers' Training College. Her book, *InsideOut*, was published by Feldheim in 2015, and addresses topics in self-awareness and personal development based on the **יהדות** curriculum that she designed for the students of Reenas Bais Yaakov. In her capacity as teacher and special programs coordinator, Mrs. Backenroth has designed close to 100 innovative workshops. She consults with high schools about programming for their yemei iyun, shabbatons and other school events. Some of her workshops designed for families are featured in her monthly column with Binah Magazine.

Ms. Bracha Leah Bernstein

Science

Ms. Bernstein received teacher's certification from Bnos Sarah Seminary. She is currently completing her BA in psychology at Touro college. Ms. Bernstein began her teaching career in Bais Yaakov of Minneapolis where she taught Mishlei and Pirkei Avos, while assisting with extra-curricular programming. Following her year of teaching in BYM, Ms. Bernstein taught Tefillah and Navi in Bruriah. At Reenas, Ms. Bernstein teaches 9th grade Biology and 11th grade Chumash skills. She brings a wide scope of knowledge and creative teaching skills to all of her classes.

Mrs. Shana Broad

Ivrit

Mrs. Broad, a graduate of Machon Raaya Seminary and a native Hebrew speaker, teaches **עברית** to our tenth and eleventh grades. Before joining RBY, Mrs. Broad taught at JFS, Yeshiva of Greater Washington, Yeshiva Ketana of Lakewood and Ilan High School. She brings much passion to her teaching and adds both breadth and depth to students' language skills. With almost a decade of teaching experience, we are thrilled that Mrs. Broad has joined our faculty.

נביא תהלים מחנכת

Mrs. Chavie Busel

Navi, Tehillim, Mechaneches

Mrs. Busel graduated from BJJ-Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros with teacher's certification. Over the past twenty years she has taught **לימודי קודש** subjects in various Lakewood schools, including Bais Kaila and Oros. Her warm personality and flexible nature led her to be chosen as a **מחנכת** in Lakewood. She continues that role in Reenas as our 12th grade **מחנכת** and **נביא** teacher. Additionally, Mrs. Busel teaches **תהילם** to the 10th grade. We are lucky to have Mrs. Busel's teaching talents and wisdom both in and out of the classroom.

נביא

Mrs. Dubbie Busel

Navi, Yearbook

Mrs. Busel graduated from BJJ-Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros with certification to teach Judaic Studies. Mrs. Busel, has taught **באור תפלה, נביא** and Computer Graphics at Reenas, and is also our in-house creative and technical leader. She designs and produces almost all Reenas productions and events, maintains our computer systems and oversees our G.O. and Mishmeres committees. Mrs. Busel's talents are in demand outside of Reenas as well; she produces magazines, brochures, yearbooks and videos for camps and schools throughout the tri-state area.

חומש

Mrs. Goldie Cohen

Chumash

Mrs. Cohen graduated from BJJ- Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros. Over the past twenty years, she taught in various schools, including Yeshiva of Brooklyn and Bais Kaila of Lakewood. In addition to teaching at RBY, Mrs. Cohen teaches at Passaic Torah Institute and The New York Seminary. Mrs. Cohen uses her wealth of experience and knowledge to explore fundamental topics found in **פרשת בראשית**, including facets of **אמונה** and the role of a Jewish woman.



Rebbetzin Rivka Eichenstein

Parshah

Rebbetzin Eichenstein, a graduate of Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros and Gateshead seminary, began her teaching career in **ירושלים** where she taught at BJJ Seminary and also directed the Special Education Program at the **בית יעקב** in **ירושלים**. Currently, Rebbetzin Eichenstein is the 12th grade Merakezet and Director of Teacher Training at Bais Yaakov Intensive Seminary in Boro Park. Rebbetzin Eichenstein is called upon to develop curricula for schools throughout the metropolitan area. In addition to teaching **פרשה** to the twelfth-grade students at RBY, Rebbetzin Eichenstein teaches **פרשה** at Manhattan High School for Girls.



Mrs. Aviva Erlanger

Spansih

Mrs. Erlanger is a graduate of Hadar Bais Yaakov Seminary in Israel where she received teacher's certification and graduated with honors. Her background in Spanish comes from living in Mexico City and attending Bais Yaakov of Mexico for eight years. She taught Spanish and **עברית** at both Bais Yaakov of Passaic and Bais Yaakov of Denver high schools. Driven by her belief that fluency in Spanish is essential to communication in today's world, Mrs. Erlanger enables her students to master a new language in an enjoyable and creative atmosphere.



Mrs. Sharon Glinn

Computers, Financial Literacy

Mrs. Glinn graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Psychology from Roger Williams University and attended graduate school at Rutgers University. Mrs. Glinn has published and presented research on using mnemonic devices in learning as well as several studies on infant learning and memory. She wrote computer courses and conducted corporate computer training classes for many years before moving on to teaching computers in public school for four years. Mrs. Glinn's wealth of experience enriches her classes.



Mrs. Aviva Goldfarb

Art

Mrs. Goldfarb earned a B.A. in Fine Art and Design from Yeshiva University and the Fashion Institute of Technology, Suma Cum Laude, and has NJ State teacher's certification. She is an alumna of Migdal Ohz Seminary of Jerusalem and Bais Yaakov of Baltimore. In addition to her many years of teaching art, she worked in graphic design and textbook illustration. She believes that creativity is essential for success in any field and that with encouragement and practice, anyone can learn to draw.

הלכה

Rabbi Menachem Goldman

Halacha

Rabbi Goldman received **סמיכה** from Mesivta Tifereth Jerusalem. He is **ראש בית דין** of Yeshiva of Staten Island as well as a **ראש חבורה** at Yeshiva of Staten Island's Kollel. In addition, Rabbi Goldman is the **ראש חבורה** of Kollel Zichron Yaakov in Monsey. Rabbi Goldman comes to RBY with years of teaching experience, educating women and girls in **הלכה**. His goal is to give his students the **הלכה** skills necessary to navigate today's complex world.



Mrs. Chani Gross

History

Mrs. Gross graduated from BJJ- Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros and received teaching certification in Judaic Studies. She received her B.A. in Liberal Arts from Thomas Edison College, took Master's level courses at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and received her NJ teaching certification. She also trained as a teacher mentor through the Jewish New Teacher Project, a role she fills in RBY. Mrs. Gross has been teaching American history and other subjects for over two decades. She currently teaches junior high school American history in Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion in Piscataway and gives classes for Torah Links in East Brunswick. Mrs. Gross is a dynamic teacher who encourages independent thinking and instills in her students a love for learning.

הלכה

ביאור תפילה

מחשבת ישראל

Rabbi Dovid Gross

Halacha, Be'ur Tefillah, Machsheves Yisroel

Rabbi Gross is a **מוסמך** of Beth Medrash Govoha in Lakewood, where he learned for over ten years. Since 2001, he has been the director of Torah Links of Middlesex County, a **קירוב** organization based in East Brunswick. His years of educational and outreach experience enable him to give students clarity in both **הלכה** and **השקפה**. Students emerge from his class on the **י"ג עקרי אמונה** with a strong foundation in the basic tenets of Yiddishkeit.



Mrs. Sukey Gross

English

Mrs. Gross is a graduate of Bais Yaakov Academy Teacher's College and received her M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Long Island University. She has been teaching for over 35 years, both **לימודי קדש** and **לימודי חול** and has given teacher training courses. Mrs. Gross is the author of a series of novels for young adults including *Passport to Russia* and *The Secret Diary*, and has recently completed the first three novels of a new historical series for young adults. She has also published short stories in various contemporary magazines such as the Jewish Press, Binah and Mishpacha. Mrs. Gross gives private courses and creative writing workshops. Under her expert instruction, our students publish their own short stories.



Mrs. Azriela Jaffe

Public Speaking

Mrs. Jaffe received her M.A. in English Literature from Union Institute and her MBA from Northeastern University. She has been a professional lecturer for over two decades. She is also the published author of 32 books, including several privately commissioned Holocaust memoirs and three Jewish novels. Over many years, her writings have appeared in Mishpacha and Ami magazines. In addition to teaching at Reenas, Mrs. Jaffe teaches Public Speaking at Rutgers University. Mrs. Jaffe enjoys teaching our seniors to deliver poised and engaging speeches, increasing self-confidence in even the shyest of students.



Miss Chaya Sorah Kamin

Pirkei Avos, Computers, Gym

Ms. Kamin is a graduate of both Reenas Bais Yaakov and BJJ- Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros where she received her teachers' certification and graduated with honors. She is currently doing teacher training through Torah Umesorah. Her love of learning and passion for teaching, combined with her commitment to each student, make her a welcome addition to Reenas Bais Yaakov.



Mrs. Sara Kaplan

Science, Math, STEM

Mrs. Kaplan earned her B.S. in Biology and Psychology from Touro College after graduating from Yavne Teacher's Seminary in Cleveland, OH. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with her M.S. in Biomedical Sciences from Rutgers Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Before teaching at Reenas, Mrs. Kaplan worked in the personal care and food industries, including Revlon, Colgate-Palmolive, and ConAgra Foods, performing research and development in the microbiology departments. As a scientist at heart, Mrs. Kaplan loves to foster questions, fascination, and excitement within her science students and to develop an overall appreciation for the scientific complexity of Hashem's world.



Mrs. Chava Konigsberg

History

Mrs. Konigsberg received teachers' certification from Bnos Chava Seminary and a BA in history and psychology from Touro College. Mrs. Konigsberg began her teaching career at Bais Yaakov of the Lower East Side. She then continued to Bruriah High School, teaching Global and Jewish History and serving as **מחנכת** there for over ten years. Aside from teaching at Reenas, Mrs. Konigsberg currently teaches at Aderes Bais Yaakov in Lakewood. Mrs. Konigsberg focuses on textual skills in the classroom and challenges her students to see history's lasting impact on the world around them.

הלכה

Rabbi Eliezer Krohn

Halacha

Rabbi Krohn, learned in Yeshiva Shaar HaTorah in Queens and Yeshivas Mir Yerushalayim, and received **סמיכה** from Beis Medrash Gevoha of Lakewood. Rabbi Krohn teaches **הלכה** in a very clear and organized manner, using practical examples in all areas to provide the girls with the tools to face all the common scenarios that they may encounter throughout the day. Hundreds of his **שיעורים** can be found on torahanytime.com. He is a Mohel and the son of Rabbi Paysach Krohn.

Mrs. Sara Leifer

Math

Mrs. Leifer earned her B.A. and M.A. in Mathematics from Queens College. Her past experience includes teaching Mathematics at Long Branch High School, Ilan High School in Deal, and at Rutgers University as an adjunct. In addition to teaching our honors and standard track math classes, Mrs. Leifer is responsible for math curriculum development at Reenas. Mrs. Leifer's vast knowledge and clarity of explanation make her classes both accessible and challenging.

Mrs. Cheyenna Levy

Academic Advisor

Mrs. Levy is a licensed Special Educator with an M.A. in Educational Leadership. She has over twenty years of experience in the field, both as a teacher and as an administrator. She has taught all grade levels, from pre-school through graduate school. Mrs. Levy's experience in both the public and private sector schools affords her a comprehensive perspective of many facets of education, which she utilizes to support the students of Reenas Bais Yaakov. As the academic advisor, Mrs. Levy works to provide each student with individualized programming best suited to her unique learning profile. Her passion for education and commitment to her students combine to create a learning environment in which every student can maximize her potential.

Mrs. Aviella Neustadt

AP Psychology

Mrs. Neustadt received her B.A. from Touro College and her M.S.W. from the School of Social Work at Rutgers University. She brings over twenty years of teaching experience to the classroom. Mrs. Neustadt is a licensed clinical social worker who works with children in school settings. She also teaches music at YST Girls School and is Program Director at Camp Chaveiros during the summers. Her goal in the classroom is to educate the whole person and to enable her students to apply psychological concepts to their own lives.

חומש משלי מחנכת

Mrs. Elisheva Nusbaum

Chumash, Mishlei, Mechaneches

Mrs. Nusbaum graduated from BJJ-Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros with teacher's certification and then earned her B.A. in Psychology from Thomas Edison State College. She quickly developed a reputation as an inspiring educator through the positions she held in both Bais Yaakov of L.A. High School and in Seminar Yerushalayim. Aside from the important role she plays as teacher and mechaneches in Reenas Bais Yaakov, Mrs. Nusbaum is a sought after Kallah instructor, guiding all of her students with her warmth and wealth of experience.

חומש פרשה

Mrs. Chavi Ohayon

Chumash, Parshah

A graduate of Hadar Bais Yaakov Seminary and Excelsior College, Mrs. Ohayon has been teaching high school students for over 10 years. Possessing a love for learning, Mrs. Ohayon has taught varied classes, ranging from **חומש, נביא, משלי** and **תפלה** to Science and Child Development, a class which she currently teaches at Bais Shaindel in Lakewood. In addition to teaching, Mrs. Ohayon has also held extra-curricular positions and is known for writing and directing plays. Passionate about teaching and knowledgeable in many subject areas, Mrs. Ohayon combines all of her strengths in the classroom to create lessons that are both intellectually stimulating and inspirational.

הסטריה מגילות

Mrs. Yehudis Pinter

Historia, Megillos

Mrs. Pinter graduated from BJJ-Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros with teacher's certification and has spent the last fourteen teaching both **לימודי קדש** and **לימודי חול** subjects in various Lakewood elementary and high schools. In addition to teaching at Reenas, Mrs. Pinter currently teaches **הסטורי** and **מגלה** at Bais Leah in Lakewood. In both her **הסטורי** and **מגלות** classes, Mrs. Pinter constructs a curriculum which directs the students to find connections to their everyday lives.



Dr. Dvora Sarfaty

English

Dr. Sarfaty received her B.A. from Teacher's Institute, Chicago, her M.A. in Education from Adelphi and her Ed.D. in Literacy Education from Rutgers University. She does teacher training at the Teacher's Institute for Special Education in Brooklyn, heads the Language Arts Department at Yeshiva Ketana of Passaic, and serves as an academic consultant for other schools. In addition to teaching the tenth and eleventh grade students at Reenas Bais Yaakov, Dr. Sarfaty serves as college guidance counselor and curriculum coordinator of secular studies. Her eclectic education and career enable her to inculcate her students with a breadth of knowledge and create a curriculum that is both skills oriented and transformative.

הסטריה

Mrs. Shoshana Sauer

Historia

Mrs. Sauer received her teacher's certificate from BJJ-Machon Sara Schneirer L'Moros and her M.A. in Education from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She has been teaching Judaic Studies and Special Education for almost twenty years and currently serves as Director of Special Services at Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion. Mrs. Sauer endeavors to impart her excitement for learning as well as an appreciation for critical thinking to each of her students at RBY.



Mrs. Goldie Schechter

Guidance Counselor, Human Growth

Mrs. Schechter, our guidance counselor, holds a NJ State license in counseling and finished her Post-Masters work at Monmouth University. She comes to RBY with years of experience and a reputation of being a compassionate and insightful individual. Schools where she has previously served as guidance counselor include BY Baltimore High School, Bnos Chayil High School, Shalom Torah Academy, and Yeshiva Shaarei Tzion. Reenas students are drawn to Mrs. Schechter's warm and accepting personality, while they reap the benefit of her skill and experience.



Mrs. Chana Zelda Sidney

History, AP US Government

After receiving a teaching certificate from Bnos Chava Seminary, Mrs. Sidney earned a B.A. summa cum laude in History and Psychology from Case Western Reserve University and an M.A. in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center. She is the recipient of a national Mellon Fellowship and a Franklin Fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania, both for doctoral studies in history. Mrs. Sidney previously taught undergraduate level history at Maimonides College in Cleveland. She currently teaches both US History II and AP US Government. Mrs. Sidney's lessons are text-based and rigorous while simultaneously being fascinating and thought-provoking.

נביא

Mrs. Rachel Silber

Navi

Mrs. Silber is a graduate of Michlalah Jerusalem College where she later worked as a student advisor and **מחנכת**. Mrs. Silber received her M.A. in Special Education from Columbia University Teachers College. She has been teaching for over a decade in both the American and Israeli school systems, both Judaic and English subjects. In addition to teaching **נביא** at RBY, Mrs. Silber is the Resource Room director at YST Boys' School. Mrs. Silber inspires a lifetime love of learning within her students by conveying the joy, richness, and relevance of their learning to their daily lives. Her clear and cogent lessons make the material accessible to all of her students.

ריעת בית יעקב

חומש ש.א.ג.י מחנכת

Mrs. Elisheva Soroka

Chumash, Shagi, Mechaneches

Mrs. Soroka is a graduate of Machon Bnos Yehuda Teachers' Seminary, and holds an M.A. in Regular and Special Education from Mercy College. In the past, Mrs. Soroka taught various **לימודי קודש** subjects including **חומש**, **נביא**, and **תפילה** at T.A.G. High School in Far Rockaway, and at MAYHS in South River. Currently, Mrs. Soroka teaches education classes for the Sarah Schneirer Institute for Special Education. Mrs. Soroka's lessons emphasize skill development and foster a love of learning. In her capacity as **מחנכת**, Mrs. Soroka aspires to develop lasting, meaningful relationships with her students.

נביא

Mrs. Tali Weiss

Navi

Mrs. Weiss graduated with Teacher's Certification from Machon Bnos Yehudah, BYA Seminary. Over the past ten years, Mrs. Weiss has taught in many other schools, both **לימודי קודש** and secular subjects. In addition to teaching at Reenas, Mrs. Weiss currently teaches secular studies at Bnot Yisroel in Lakewood. She also mentors new teachers through the Sayan Teacher Mentoring Program sponsored by Bais Yaakov Intensive Seminary. In her position as a **נביא** teacher, Mrs. Weiss challenges her students to develop their textual skills, and encourages them to embrace the **נביא**'s lifelong lessons.

נביא

Mrs. Toby Wilschanski

Navi

Mrs. Wilschanski graduated from Yavne Teachers' College where she received her teaching certificate. Her teaching experience over more than fifteen years, includes both elementary and high school level Judaic and secular studies in various schools. She also spent summers in Camp Shira developing and assisting in running the **שיעור** learning program. In addition to Reenas BY, Mrs. Wilschanski currently teaches **נביא** in both Oros Bais Yaakov in Lakewood, NJ and via video conferencing in Bais Yaakov Waterbury, CT. Mrs. Wilschanski empowers her students with new skills and develops within them a love for learning.



Mrs. Simcha Wise

Ivrit

Mrs. Wise, a native Israeli, is a graduate of Michlelet Hadassah in Jerusalem. Inspired to teach **עברית** to others, she founded the Baltimore Ivrit Ulpan to teach the language to adults. She also taught at the Bnos Yisroel High School of Baltimore. Mrs. Wise's goals are to make the language accessible and alive to her students.

Mrs. Brachy Zipper

Graphics

Mrs. Zipper graduated with a B.A. in Computer Graphics and Web Design from Touro College. She has been working as a freelance graphic and web designer for over eight years and uses this expertise and experience to guide her students. In her innovative approach to teaching design, Mrs. Zipper has students pull from their everyday lives to complete assignments. Students have used extra-curricular activities, events, and the **ימים טובים** to inspire their projects in the classroom.



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