



**Welcome Back to School!**

**Meet Your 2019-2020 Faculty & Staff!**

**Tracie Glazer - *Head of School***



It is a great pleasure to welcome your family to the 2019-20 school year. I hope that the summer months have provided you with some rest, relaxation, and an opportunity to spend quality family time together. We have been planning and preparing for what is sure to be an amazing year! We have added some wonderful new teachers and staff expanded the roles of others to complement our already talented and dynamic team. I hope that this newsletter offers you insight into the quality educators and individuals who will partner with you to promote critical thinking, academic excellence and a love of learning for your child(ren).

Our teachers have been hard at work over the summer preparing lessons, arranging their classrooms, and attending professional development. Hillel School Faculty have traveled to New York City and Washington D.C. for participation in Stanford and Avi Chai's Better Lesson and coaching programs; others have worked collaboratively to build high-impact teaching teams through the Research for Better Teaching Program supported by Prizmah! My team and I look forward to working hard to provide the highest quality Jewish and secular education for your children in ways that nurture the leadership and the greatness in each and every one of them. I hope that your families enjoy the rest of the summer.

Sincerely,

Head of School

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## **Scott Hoornbeck - *Dean of Students & Faculty***



I am excited for my eighth year at Hillel School and my third year as Dean of Faculty & Students. This summer I have been working with our faculty on curriculum and programming, and ensuring they are engaging in professional development opportunities over the summer. It has been very exciting to meet our new teachers and to build upon my relationships with returning teachers. I am confident this year is going to be an amazing one, filled with joy in learning and innovation. I am so excited to see how our teachers will be implementing new skills, resources, and tools in their classrooms. I received my B.S. in History from S.U.N.Y Fredonia before receiving my Master's in Education from Roberts Wesleyan College. I also hold a certification in Special Education. When I am not at Hillel School, I love to create hilarious viral videos for Hillel School in our very own Broadcast Studio, and you can always find me cheering for the Bills on a Sunday or spending time with my wife Lisa and daughter Presley.

### **Administrative Staff:**

## **Sarah Krieger - *Director of Enrollment & Community Engagement***



I am excited for the start of an amazing year ahead at Hillel Community Day School. I may be a familiar face to some of you and to those I have not met yet, I can't wait to get to know you. I'm a graduate from Ithaca College where I pursued a degree in Communication Management and Design and Jewish studies and have taken classes at Cornell University in the Hospitality department. In my free time I enjoy exploring new places, especially in nature. I have spent my time planning, managing many kinds of events and social media platforms for College's, non-profits, hotels, for profit companies and event spaces. I'm excited to continue planning stellar events for our school, getting to know each of you, working with our PTO and continuing to strengthen our relationship in our community. This summer I attended a Prizmah conference and look forward bringing back to our school best practices and continue working with other industry leaders. I know that we will experience an incredible school year. Please feel free to contact me.

## **Catherine Toy - *Business Operations & Human Resources Manager***



I am looking forward to my new position as Hillel Community Day School's Director of Business Operations. I will endeavor to optimize the financial health of the school while maintaining the well being of its children, faculty and staff. It is an honor to be part of this environment of dynamic individuals. The success of Hillel Community Day School is forged in excellence. I am originally from Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Growing up; my family was transferred to Vancouver, and later to Toronto. I am a graduate of the Business Administration and Management program at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology. Seneca College is one of the largest business schools in Canada. My past leadership experience includes: Midvale Women's Association Director of Communications, Rotaract Club of Scarborough Vice President, Toronto Rotary Youth Leadership Award recipient, and Agincourt Rotary Club's year long exchange student to Cuernavaca, Mexico. I currently live in Pittsford with my son, Patrick.

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### **Emily Levin- *Director of Institutional Advancement and Development***



I am thrilled to join the staff at the Hillel Community Day School as the Development Director. Previously, I spent twelve years at bde, a boutique public relations firm based in New York City. In addition to public relations, bde specializes in marketing, events and social media and for the last three years, I was Director of Public Relations & Communication. I look forward to bringing my experiences with clients, media and event planning and translate those into outreach and successful fundraising for the school. I am originally from LaGrange, Georgia and prior to my time in public relations, I worked as a professional classical singer performing in operas, recitals, concerts and solo work in high holiday choirs in the US and abroad. I received my Master of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University. I hope there will be an opportunity to share my music with the students, faculty, families and benefactors during the year.

In my spare time, I enjoy running and recently completed the NYC Half Marathon. Most Thursday nights I can be found running with the Medved running group and hope to help in the HCDS running club.

I moved with my husband of eleven years, Randall, and two sons, Henry (6) and Michael (4), to Rochester in 2018 when Randall joined Temple Beth El as Hazzan. We are so happy to be here, be a part of this city and join this wonderful Jewish community!

### **Jake Wombacker- *Executive Assistant***



Hello! I am *so excited* to be entering my first full school year at Hillel. For those of you who don't know me, I joined this wonderful team last April where I assist Mrs. Glazer and Mr. Hoornbeck in ensuring that every day, we are all working towards the mission of our school. I am a native of Syracuse, NY, but moved to Rochester in 2016. I have a plethora of professional experience that includes marketing, sales and business administration. I worked for over 10 years as a Team Leader for an Information Technology company where I focused on supporting the sales force. Also, I am a music lover and had the immense pleasure of singing with the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra. I currently reside in Victor but keep an eye out for me on HGTV's House Hunters. I love to spend time with my husband and family, traveling and good food. I look forward to getting to know the families who I have yet to meet.

### **Amber Jones- *Administrative Assistant***



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My name is Amber Jones and I am excited to be joining the Hillel Community Day school faculty as your new Administrative Assistant. I was born and raised in the city of Rochester, NY. I graduated from the University at Buffalo in May of 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a minor in Sociology. Before transferring to the University at Buffalo, I attended Monroe Community College and earned an associate degree in Political Science.

While attending Monroe Community College, I was the Vice President of the Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Project. Some of my duties as Vice President included organizing meetings and activities. In my free time I love to sing karaoke with my friends and family. I also like to read about current events and non-fiction literature. I am looking forward to meeting all of you!

**Staff:**

**Michael Cherry - *Kitchen Manager***



I am excited to be entering my third school year as Kitchen Manager at Hillel School. I have been a Chef for over 30 years and am originally from Liverpool England. I studied Hotel & Restaurant Management at Cornell University and completed my internship at Culinary Institute of America in Hartford, CT. When not creating delicious and healthy meals for your children, I enjoy downhill skiing, waterskiing and horseback riding. I am also a huge Liverpool FC fan and when cheering on American Football, I root for the Dallas Cowboys.

**Deborah Kummer - *School Nurse***



My name is Debbie Kummer and I am thrilled to be continuing with the Hillel School family as the school nurse and health instructor for my fourth year. I grew up in New Rochelle, NY and have lived in the Rochester area since 1975. Since graduating nursing school in 1981, I've worked at Strong Memorial and Highland Hospitals. After going back to school, in 2014 I attained my bachelor's degree in nursing, an accomplishment I am very proud of. One of

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the best parts about being a nurse is to be able to learn every day. As your school nurse, I am delighted to continue to learn with the students, my esteemed colleagues and the wonderful Hillel families. When I'm not at work, in addition to spending time with my cherished family, I love to play with my horse, Shreck, and make music on my clarinet

**Joe Netti - *Facilities & Maintenance Manager***



I am looking forward to my third school year here at Hillel. It has been exciting to see all the progress with the new Dining Commons. This new space will be a huge asset to our school! As always, I will be helping to ensure that the facilities remain clean and tidy and that all of the bits and pieces function properly! I hold advanced certifications in HVAC and solar energy technology from MCC. In my free time, I enjoy cooking and gardening.

**General Studies Faculty:**

**Lori Donnelly - *General Studies, Kindergarten***



I am thrilled to be going into my second-year teaching Kindergarten at Hillel Community Day School. I received my Masters of Science Degree in Education from Nazareth College with a dual certification in Elementary and Special Education. I previously taught Pre-Kindergarten for several years at the Wolk Children's Center of JCC which provided me with a great wealth of insight, experience, and knowledge and I look forward to sharing this with the children at Hillel this year. I currently live in Brighton where I have raised two wonderful children. I have a great love of reading, animals, and spending time outdoors with nature.



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### **Becca Beldner - *General Studies, Second Grade***



Hi! My name is Becca Beldner and I will be teaching first grade general studies this year! This will be my third year at Hillel. I studied early childhood inclusive education, as well as English, at St. John Fisher College. I am currently pursuing my masters in literacy at Nazareth College. In my free time I am a coxswain for Flower City Rowing, and I also coach rowing at St. John Fisher College, where I also competed as a student athlete. I enjoy hiking and looking for waterfalls. I can often be found in Target surrounded by avocados and drinking my favorite Starbucks beverage! I am SO excited to start yet another year at my favorite place in the world!!

### **Laura Pullem-*General Studies, Second Grade***



Hello! I am so honored to be entering my second year at Hillel School! This year I will be teaching Second Grade General Studies and Eighth Grade ELA and Social Studies. I am looking forward to continue the learning journey with some students and starting a new one with others!

I spent an amazing summer working as the Health Director and R.N. for the newly established JCC Day Camp. It was so wonderful to see so many HCDS students and their friends having fun together!

My husband is a Merchant Mariner and has been at sea the past few months. Thankfully, our 6 year old, Audrey (who will continue attending Hillel this year as a 1st Grader), has been having so much fun at camp and school! As a family we enjoy kayaking, hiking, and traveling. My personal passion is cooking, musical theater, plays, and old movies!

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2019-2020 will be filled with science experiments, awe inspiring history, delicious math lessons, reading inspiring stories, and Oxford commas. I am so excited for this year!

**Morgan Atkins - *General Studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, Head of General Studies***



Hello! My name is Morgan Atkins and I am so excited to be teaching third and fourth grade general studies again this year! I am also taking on the role of Head of General Studies. This will be my fifth year teaching and my second year at Hillel. I am so honored to be a part of the Hillel community! It is a really special place. I graduated from Canisius College in 2015, where I studied Childhood Education and English and also ran cross country and track. Running and being a part of a team has taught me so many valuable life lessons that I hope to instill in our students. Currently, I am training for my second half marathon in the fall. Two years ago, I graduated from St. John Fisher College with my Master's Degree in Special Education. In my free time, I enjoy exploring new places in Rochester, seeing live music, reading and relaxing on my front porch, taking fitness classes, exploring mindfulness deeper, and spending quality time with family and friends. I am looking forward to another successful year learning, reflecting, and growing with my students and other passionate teachers!

**David Prevosti - *General Studies, Middle School Humanities***



As the middle school Humanities teacher, I look forward to a year filled with critical thinking and connections. This is my third year teaching at Hillel. I am thrilled to also be a part of the Alliance of Day Schools. As part of this partnership program, I have been meeting virtually with other day school teachers from across the country to plan and implement humanities curriculum centered around Social Justice and Change Leadership Through A Jewish Lens. It has been a joy to connect my students with other students across our nation, culminating in our three summits: 6<sup>th</sup> grade's *Civil Rights Through Jewish Lens* Alabama trip; 7<sup>th</sup> grade's *Change Leadership & Social Justice Through a Jewish Lens* Washington, D.C. trip; 8<sup>th</sup> grade's *Social Justice: Israeli & American Jewish Innovation and Our Shared Peoplehood*. This will be our third year going to Alabama, our second year going to

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D.C., and our FIRST year going to Israel with these partner schools! In my free time, I enjoy running and spending time with my three children and wife. It's going to be a fantastic school year!

### **Judaic Studies Faculty:**

#### **Rabbi Avi Kilimnick - *School Rabbi***



I was born and raised in Rochester, New York. Hillel School holds a very special place in my heart, as I attended Hillel from K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Professionally, I have my Rabbinic Ordination from Yeshivah

University, and my Master's in Education from Azrieli school of Education in Washington Heights. This year I will be serving as the school Rabbi overseeing the Kashrut in the school and being available to discuss any Jewish inquiry you may have. I am also serving as the Rabbi at Congregation Beth Sholom. I live in Brighton with my lovely wife Esti and our three wonderful children Leiba, Ahuva, and Asher. I am looking forward for another wonderful year at Hillel.

#### **Rachel Morry- *Judaic/Ivrit, Kindergarten***



Hello Hillel families. I am truly excited to be entering my second year at Hillel as the Kindergarten Judaic/Ivrit teacher. I am thrilled to bring my love of Judaism, Israel and the Hebrew language into the class. I was born in the USA, lived in Israel for 19 years where I did the National service. I also lived in Guatemala for two years where I taught Hebrew at Gan Hillel, met and married my husband Joseph.

I, my husband and our 5 children have been living in Brighton for two years and we love everything about it. All our kids are Hillel students or alumni.



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**Sapir Mualem - *Judaic Studies, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade***



My name is Sapir Mualem and I am so excited to be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Hebrew and Judaics teacher this year at Hillel School. I graduated from Beit Berl College, Israel and was a Hebrew and Israel Culture teacher for grades Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Bucharest, Romania. Before I taught in Romania, I was a homeroom teacher of 38 amazing young students in Israel. I am so excited to work with your students this year! During my free time I like to volunteer my time to helping children and Holocaust survivors. In addition, I enjoy swimming and reading. I am beyond excited for this coming year and am looking forward to do what I am most passionate about - teaching Hebrew and Judaic studies!

**Stephen Papkin - *Judaic Studies, Third & Fourth Grade***



Shalom! My name is Stephen Papkin and I am proud to be returning to HCDS for a fourth year as the third and fourth grade Judaic Studies teacher. Subjects that I teach at Hillel School include Tanach, Ivrit, Chagim, Tefillot and Israel Studies. Other duties that I have at HCDS are leading our Judaic Studies team and sitting on our safety committee. I was born and raised in Rochester, New York and spent 5 years living in Israel, where I earned a degree from the Interdisciplinary Center of Herzliya. When I am not teaching, I can be found bass fishing or playing with Sterling and Cameron, my two cats. I am so excited for another amazing year at Hillel School!

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**Noam Nachshon - *Judaic & General Studies, Middle School, History of Israel and Judaic/Israel Studies***



The Nachshon family is so excited to be joining the Hillel School community this year! I grew up in Jerusalem and studied Geography in the Hebrew University. I am an Israel tour guide and Israel history instructor. I was a high school teacher in Haifa for 7 years while teaching professional tour guide courses. I look forward to teaching the History of Israel as well as Judaic & Israel Studies to your middle schoolers this year! I want to thank everyone who has contributed to our warm welcome as we begin our new life in Rochester!

**Yael Nachshon - *Judaic Studies, Middle School, Biblical Studies/Chagim/Mitzvot***



I am so excited to be joining the Hillel School community this year. Me and my family are coming from Israel, where we lived in Hannaton a small Kibbutz, midway between Haifa and the sea of Galilee summer to Rochester. My husband and I will both be teaching at Hillel School while our two daughters, Maayan and Agam (5<sup>th</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) will be students, and our son Yarden will attend the JCC kindergarten. I grew up in Jerusalem and studied Judaism and biblical studies for my first degree and continued in Jewish philosophy (מחשבת ישראל) for the second degree. I have taught high school and middle school biblical studies (ך"תנ) for the past 12 years. I am looking forward to teaching at Hillel, and meeting all of you!

**Special Subjects Faculty:**

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### **Abbey Brothers - Art, Graphic Designer, After School Care Coordinator**



Hello Hillel families. I am Abbey Brothers and I wear a few different hats here at Hillel Community Day School. I am the art educator, afterschool care coordinator, and yearbook club advisor. I am so excited for our students to explore a broad variety of art mediums, techniques, and gain a deeper understanding of museums this year. All of our students will have a chance to work with clay and sculpture, as well as various craft. I am excited to start a robust partnership with the Memorial Art Gallery! Mark your calendars for November 11<sup>th</sup> for the MAG's Jewish Heritage Celebration day! Our students will be showcasing their artwork as part of a project inspired by the upcoming *Fabric of Survival: The Art of Esther Nisenthal Krinitz* exhibition. Do not miss the Arts and Literature Fair at the end of the school year where our artists will showcase their work at the "Hillel School Museum"!

### **Clara Fonda – Math**



Hello Hillel School Families! I am so excited to begin my second year at Hillel Community Day School! I will be the mathematics teacher for 3rd through 8th grade and the Yearbook Club advisor. This summer, I have been revising the math curriculum to be mastery-based focused this year, which I know is going to be a fantastic adventure! I am looking forward to seeing our students continue to grow as critical thinkers and mathematicians! I graduated from Roberts Wesleyan College in 2017 where I studied Mathematics and Special Education. I previously taught Algebra 1 and 2 at a high school in upstate NY. In my free time, I enjoy scrapbooking, reading, working on math problems, and spending quality time with friends and family

### **Susan Fregoe - Science**



I am so excited to be entering my third year at Hillel School. This year, I look forward to further building our school's science programming to empower our students to see themselves as leaders and innovators. I am excited to show our students how science is a relevant and integral part of their life

and the world around them. I am excited for a fun and challenging year with your scientists. I am lucky enough to work at a school that values sustainability. Our school is a living classroom where we love to explore and create! I have been teaching for 25 years in many different schools. When not teaching, I have been training for aqua bike and riding this summer with Mr. Prevosti.

**Betsy McGowan – *Pupil Personnel Service Coordinator***



I'm very excited to be joining the Hillel team as the Pupil Personnel Service Coordinator this year. I graduated from Canisius College with a BA in Elementary Education and a MS in Reading/ Literacy Instruction. I have been a first and second grade classroom teacher in schools in the Buffalo area. I then had the opportunity to be a Literacy Specialist in the Warsaw CSD before serving as a Literacy Consultant/Coach in the East Rochester schools. I live in Brighton with my husband and three children, our dog Rosie and our cat Beatrice. My favorite times are spent with my family skiing and traveling to the beach. I am thrilled to be a new member of the Hillel family and look forward to getting to know the students and families!

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### **Tara Wiseman– *STEAM Director & Garden and Sustainability***



Tara “Wiseman” joins us full-time this year in our STEAM lab as our new SmartLab Facilitator. She will also be found in the garden and backstage. Tara is a Rochester transplant and is happily settling after many years of exploration. She has two lovely kiddos and a small zoo. She loves spending any free time as close to the beach as possible and rescuing/fostering animals.

Some of you may have seen her at Camp Sisol or the JCC, where she spent the last 5 years as the KinderCrew teacher. Tara comes to us with a plethora of experience from her 17 years of teaching. Her specialty is using theatre and play to teach across the subjects and grades. She has trained in the Emilio Reggio and Montessori approaches to learning and is excited to be able to guide our students in using their creative thinking to solve 21<sup>st</sup> century issues.

### **Ken Soble - *Physical Education***



My name is Ken Soble and I am excited for my second year as the Physical Education teacher here at Hillel School. I received my B.S. and M.S. in Education from S.U.N.Y. Brockport. I taught in Penfield for grades K-12 where I coached hockey, football, and baseball for 10 years. I was a special education teacher in St. Louis, MO and have been an adjunct professor at R.I.T and S.U.N.Y Brockport. I have been coaching hockey and baseball at McQuaid Jesuit since 2007. I look forward to creating a fun and challenging environment for your children to learn and thrive in, with a focus on how to lead a healthy and happy lifestyle. In my free time I volunteer at the Brighton Fire Department.



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## **Mike Stenzel- Director of IT**



It is a great pleasure to join the Hillel Family as Director of IT. I have worked with computer and A/V technology since I was young, and worked for such institutions as St. John Fisher College, Buffalo City Schools, and Nazareth College. I have an AAS from Monroe Community College and a BS from Buffalo State College. I was born and raised in Rochester, and enjoy fixing and upgrading computers, and playing table top and card games in my spare time.

## **Jack McMahon- *Music Teacher***



¡Buenos días, Hillel! My name is Jack McMahon and I'm thrilled to be taking over as your music teacher this year. You may recognize me from serving the school in other roles, but this will be my first year teaching in a classroom (or gymnasium). I've been a dedicated musician for eighteen years and play over a dozen instruments, but my greatest strengths lie in the areas of musical theory and composition and piano performance. I attended the University of Notre Dame for both my undergraduate and post-grad education, where I served as president and captained the Fighting Irish's fabled water skiing team. Outside of school, I serve as the head of business development for a Rochester-based tech startup, compose, perform, and produce my own music, and bounce around the country (and Canada) visiting friends and looking for adventure in the great outdoors. See you all soon!

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## **Jackie Smith-Social Worker**



I am very excited to join the Hillel Team as the new Social Worker/Guidance Counselor. For the last 3 years, I have been a full-time stay-at-home mom to my 3 year old son, Freddie. This summer, my husband, Eric, and I welcomed our daughter, Charlotte. I am originally from the Albany area and came to Rochester for college. I met my husband here and we decided to stay because we love Rochester!

I am a graduate of Nazareth College with a BA in Psychology and went onto graduate school at the SUNY Brockport/Nazareth College collaborative masters program for social work. After that I worked in a variety of health care facilities as a medical social worker.

In my free time, I enjoy playing volleyball at Hot Shots, running, crafting and spending time with my family & friends. In the summer months, my husband and I enjoy camping and visiting National Parks. Our goal is to collect all the stamps in our passport from every National Park. I am also a fan of true crime documentaries and podcasts.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with the students and families this school year!