

# PTTS TUTOR INFORMATION (2021-2022)



## **Yehudit Robinson**

Yehudit Robinson's connection to Shearith Israel goes back to the 1970s, when her late father, Morris Robinson, enjoyed attending services and Rabbi Marc Angel's talmud class.

After graduating Stern College with a degree in English in 1999, Yehudit completed the HaShaar new teacher program at the Drisha Institute in 2000. From there, she taught at several New York day schools, including Manhattan Day School (for 11 years). During this time, she also taught for two years at PTTS, and she is still in touch with some of her students and their families. Under the guidance of Rabbi Ira Rohde and Rabbi Hayyim Angel, Yehudit also prepared teen boys to lead services in the main sanctuary, prepared teen girls to chant Shir HaShirim, and helped prepare students for b'nei mitzvah (torah, haftarah, megillot, and divrei torah).

Yehudit completed a masters in Humanities and Social Thought at NYU as well as a certificate in teaching Hebrew as a second language from Hebrew College. Yehudit is available for zoom sessions Monday - Thursday mornings and afternoons. She enjoys learning with students in elementary and middle school. She customizes the curriculum based on student interests, such as bible study, Hebrew reading, Hebrew language, Shearith Israel prayers, Jewish holidays, etc. She has been a Judaic Studies tutor since 2003, and her website is [mytorahtutor.com](http://mytorahtutor.com).

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## **Lauren Schneider**

M.S. Ed

Lauren has over 10 years of experience as an educator. She has taught in a variety of educational settings including general education, inclusion and self-contained classrooms. Lauren is thrilled to be returning to Shearith Israel. She was a classroom teacher at PTTS from 2009-2014 where she taught a wide variety of grade levels. During the 2017-2018 school year, Lauren was the PTTS Hebrew Reading Specialist, where she created tailored Hebrew reading curriculums for individuals and small groups. She has also taught in many Hebrew Schools in NYC and Long Island both as a classroom teacher and as a Hebrew language tutor. Lauren believes that it is important to empower students with a strong Judaic foundation which will enable them to feel at home both in the synagogue and in the larger Jewish community. She is committed to helping each student connect with their Jewish heritage.

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Lauren grew up in Great Neck, Long Island. She always wanted to combine her passions for Jewish Studies and education. Lauren completed her undergraduate degree at Brandeis University where she majored in Sociology and Child Studies and minored in Judaic Studies. She has earned a Master's Degree in General Childhood and Special Education at Bank Street College of Education, and an advanced certificate for teaching students who are blind and visually impaired from Hunter College. Lauren works in private schools teaching children with visual impairments and multiple disabilities. Lauren, her husband, and her toddler daughter reside on the Upper West Side.

Lauren will only be able to meet virtually. She would like to work with students in grades K - 5. I am comfortable teaching all subjects. Her specialty is the siddur and Hebrew literacy.

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## **Esther Starobinets**

A Manhattan-based private tutor and mom of three, Esther Starobinets brings to her private lessons many years of successful classroom teaching in both New York and London. With a background in both Judaic Studies and History, along with a love of writing, Esther supports her students in reaching their scholastic goals with lessons tailored to their individual personalities and academic needs.

Esther's fun and engaging lessons make it easy for her students to connect to the subject matter, and her positivity and encouragement help her students take pride in their achievements.

Esther received her BA from Yale University and MA from Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School. She taught middle-school and high-school Judaic Studies at Immanuel College in London and at HAFTR and Manhattan High School in New York, while tutoring SAT and ACT prep for Princeton Review. She has been working as a Private Tutor and Homeschool Teacher since 2007.

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**Josh Lipson**

Josh tutors Hebrew to students of all ages and all levels through high intermediate. He has a degree in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard, and is a doctoral student at Columbia. He has lived in Israel, and done on-the-ground investigative journalism (Jerusalem Post) and academic research in Hebrew. He is passionate about secular and religious Hebrew poetry, Israeli comedy TV, and all kinds of Jewish and Israeli music. He has also taught English to kids aged 5 to 13 in Turkey, and Spanish to 2nd through 4th graders in Boston.

Josh is happy to tailor his tutoring approach to whatever your family's priorities or your child's strengths are. We can focus on exposure to the language through culture and music, prioritize conversational skills, or zero in entirely on learning how to read the Hebrew of the Torah—whatever makes the most sense for your kid.

His teaching mantra, for whenever students are struggling with the right answer, is: “You know more than you think you do!”

He is comfortable tutoring all ages, either in person or virtually, and would prefer to tutor Hebrew language (or bar mitzvah Hebrew!), but is also glad to tutor Hebrew Bible or Jewish literacy.