



2022 DJDS Faculty & Staff Appreciation Breakfast

May 25, 2022
8:00 - 9:00 AM
Strear Family Gymnasium

Honorees

5 Years

Chris Butler
Daniel Chartier
Judy Rath

18 Years

Ken Miller

25 Years

Robin Helgerson

Retirees

Rachel Greenfeld (9 Years)
Barbara Silberman (14 Years)
Carole Rich (15 Years)
Ken Miller (18 Years)
Brigitte Stout (21 Years)

Our 2021-22 honorees & retirees:

You will find testimonials from various faculty members and administrators for each honoree and retiree from the 2021-22 school year below. Each honoree and retiree has become a valuable part of the Denver JDS mishpacha, and these testimonials will surely show that!

Honorees

Chris Butler - 5 Years

“Chris is the ultimate utility knife. He will accept any duty, take on any challenge head-on and assist with anything to make the students' lives better at DJDS.

I have been impressed with his ability to make connections with both students and faculty in the Upper Division. His calmness, poise, and open attitude naturally allow him to be successful as a coach, teacher, and colleague. Chris is an invaluable asset to DJDS and has become a friend and partner to me over the past five years. Thank you for all you have done to help me in the athletic department, to help revolutionize physical education with the creation of Tochnit Breut, and to put a new, fresh spin on innovative education and the maker space this year. Mazel Tov to all you have accomplished, Chris!” - **Josh Lake**



Daniel Chartier - 5 Years

"Congratulations Daniel on 5 years and thank you for all you have done to help our students explore their artistic selves, learn about famous art and artists, and help them learn new and creative ways to express and communicate their thoughts and ideas. Daniel has done such a nice job of exposing students to exciting forms of art and allowing them to explore different mediums in a safe space. There are so many creative ways to become an artist and we love that our students have an opportunity to explore those with you."

- Elana Shaprio & Jodie Applebaum



Judy Rath - 5 Years

"We are so grateful for all that Judy has done with our library in the past five years. She has truly transformed the space and the program into the hub of the lower division. Her remote learning read-alouds, contests for new book releases, and outside of school literacy programming are truly highlights of the school year for so many students and beautifully foster a life long love of books and reading. Judy's flexibility, willingness to always help a teammate, and strong work ethic have made her an asset to this community. We love the books we have learned about because of her and the areas in which we have grown because of the resources Judy had shared with us."

- Elana Shaprio & Jodie Applebaum



Ken Miller - 18 Years

"At the end of the day, what makes Ken an extraordinary teacher is just who he is as a person. Through his own example—and maybe the occasional fiery exhortation—he shows young people how to be self-assured without being cocky, how to follow the news, how to value the stories of people who lived in the past, how to take things seriously while keeping a sense of humor, how to banter about the really important stuff (like baseball). It has always been remarkable to me that Ken can command so much reverence from his students, while at the same time enjoying such an easy and comfortable relationship with them. More than a teacher and coach, Ken is a role model to his students and players – and to me."

- **Dr. Jeremy Golubcow-Teglasi**



Robin Helgerson - 25 Years

"Robin truly cares about Denver JDS and everyone here at school. This school means so much to Robin and Robin means so much to this school!"

Robin has worked diligently at our school for twenty-five years both in the Upper Division and now in the business office. During these many years, Robin has enjoyed many great times and experienced real-life challenges. I have always been so incredibly impressed with the way she manages everything with a smile on her face and a kind word.



Denver JDS is better because of the impact Robin has had on our school. She has supported and interacted so kindly with faculty, staff, students, parents, and the broader school community. I hope that we will be blessed to have Robin at Denver JDS for many years to come." - **Avi Halzel**



Retirees

Rachel Greenfeld - 9 Years

"I am so happy you were my teacher this year, I have loved every class and learned so much Hebrew that I will use in the future, and I'm very sad that you are leaving DJDS after this year. We will all miss you!"

- **DJDS 9th Grader**

"You have been an incredible colleague, friend, and teacher. You are always teaching us about Jewish values, Israeli culture, and all of this has been done through the beauty of the Hebrew language." - **Danielle Schwartz**



Barbara Silberman - 14 Years

"Teaching is a nurturing profession. As educators we nurture young minds; however, a few very special ones amongst us nurture the spirit as well. My esteemed colleague Barbara Silberman is one of the very few teachers I have met who truly has this gift. Barbara's innate ability to sense the delicate balance needed between selfdiscipline and compassion allows her to inspire a struggling student. She galvanizes them to have confidence in themselves to overcome something that was previously insurmountable in their mind. This is a special gift.



During the past seven years, I have been strengthened and comforted by Barbara's presence in our halls and classrooms in just the same way she has strengthened and comforted countless of our students. Day in and day out, Barbara's distinctive laughter has preceded her as she enters the Upper Division Building, reassuring all those who hear it, that whatever problem they are grappling with is about to receive compassionate and realistic consideration from an experienced and caring educator.

Barbara has been an invaluable friend, confidant and mentor to countless parents, students and fellow educators in our community during the fourteen years she has been at DJDS. She has unselfishly given of her time and talents at nights, on weekends and during school holidays. The words "I need to speak with Mrs. Silberman" have been spoken with a mixture of hope and desperation by innumerable students over the years. Barbara's diminutive stature belies her huge talent as an educator, and I fear that those of us left behind have gigantic shoes to fill. We will miss our dear friend and colleague, but I fear it will be her beloved 'bubbaleh's' who will feel her loss most keenly. Quite simply, Mrs. Barbara Silberman will be greatly missed." - **Peta Miller**

"Barbara Silberman has devotedly served our students for almost fifteen years. During this time, no one has worked harder, or cared more about our students success. She combines a toughness that allows her to hold our kids accountable with a kindness that allows our students to know that she is unquestionably on their side. Without Barbara's hard work, many of our students with Learning Differences would not be successful at our school. I consider it an honor to have been able to work along side of her."

- **Jason Snyder**

Carole Rich - 15 Years

"Kind, generous, thoughtful, loving, and nurturing are just some of the words I've heard to describe you. To me, you are so much more than any of these words. Every winter morning, I came into a warm room. The heat and air filter were always turned on in both rooms. Every morning, I was met with a "Good Morning" or "How are you feeling?" Every year, it was you who made sure our birthdays were celebrated, even though yours fell over winter break 100% of the time. Your kindness and warmth permeated the classroom not only physically, but emotionally. You were always there to cheer me up or to help support me. But, it wasn't only me who was on the receiving end of your loving nature. You were always patient with the students and always there to help them - whether they needed a hug or some academic help. Thank you to the person who was always there for me. Thank you for being you and for helping to raise so many students over the years. Thank you for being more than words can describe. Wishing you a very happy retirement full of happiness and all of the blessings of life. Enjoy your 7 day weekends! I will miss you!"

- **Rebekah Kochavi**



"Words cannot express all the thoughts and emotions I was feeling while writing this!. We have worked together for so very long. We supported each other and the teachers we took care of. Our children were small when we first met. Our educational journey is ending, but our friendship is beginning anew. Our most memorable event was the year we had the fire in the lunchroom. Who knew the pizza container would be heavy enough to turn the stove on and burn. Funny thing was, we had asked each other earlier what would happen, if we had a fire drill during lunch. Boy, did we find out!

Thank you for that memory and the many others we had. Thank you for helping the 1st Grade team and I, see the year through. We were a great team. Chaggigat HaSiddur was proof of that. Thank you for being kind, compassionate, patient, understanding and caring to the children, teachers, staff, parents and me. Your heart is so very big! And finally, Thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul for being my friend and colleague. I am grateful to have worked with you, been part of your family and simply said, Met you! Blessings on your retirement. Good Luck! May all you do, come up roses." - **Charlene Irani**

Ken Miller - 18 Years

"Rabbi Abraham Yachnes teaches, "If you are walking down the street and someone is walking beside you carrying a large box, and you offer to help the person carry the box, that is not chesed (kindness). You'd simply be a terrible person not to help someone in that situation. What counts as chesed is when you are walking the opposite way from someone carrying a burden and you turn around to help carry that load in the direction he or she is going. That is chesed."



That is Ken Miller. I have never met a person more kind and willing to go out of his way to help someone in need than Ken. Ken always asks how you are doing and he always asks how he can help. He is an inspiration to me and is the true Los Angeles of CO-workers. He will be greatly missed next year." - **Channa Schweid**

Brigitte Stout - 21 Years

"I met Ms. Brigitte early in the morning on my first day of employment at DJDS. I asked her if I could use her sink in the Lower Division clinic to wash my hands. Ms. B said, "Of course, just be careful, the water comes out kind of fast and hard." I walked over to the sink, turned on the water, and watched it spray all over the front of my pants. I looked at Brigitte and she said, "I told you!!" and she proceeded to laugh as I attempted to dry the front of my pants. Then she asked, "Do you want a cracker? It seems to make children feel better." It was only later that I understood what the cracker comment was all about. Ms. B, who I affectionately call Dr. B, because she does more doctoring in one day than many E.R. docs do in a week, treats many of our student's ailments with a gentle voice, a kind smile, and yes, a saltine cracker. On that day I said, "yes, I would like a cracker," and guess what, I did feel better and I was comforted by her gentle voice and her kind smile. Little did I know that six years later I would talk to a DJDS alumni and now DJDS parent who remembered Ms. B giving her a cracker to make her feel better and it worked for her also. I now know that it wasn't the cracker that made us feel better, it was Dr.B's voice, smile, and loving spirit that somehow cured all that was wrong. I am lucky to know Dr. B and most of all I am lucky to have her as a friend. I shall miss her dearly when I come to work and I will always think of her when I have a saltine cracker." - **Officer Todd Bittner**



Brigitte Stout - 21 Years (cont'd)

"It is seemingly impossible for me to say goodbye to my colleague and friend of the past 20 years. The first time I met Brigitte was during her first year here. My kids were starting kindergarten, I was a new substitute teacher and she welcomed us as if she had been here forever. She had actually only been here a couple of weeks. She quickly became a go-to person for anything anyone ever needed. As a substitute and new teacher here she was always available to help me, answer questions, find me what I needed, and sip a first-morning cup of coffee with me. For my kids, Ms. B was one of the best parts of their Lower Division experience. She let them help her deliver things to classrooms in the early morning before school started and even gave them rides on the roly carts sometimes! My daughter Esti became one of Brigitte's many "office frequent flyers" often needing a bandaid, ice pack, or saltine cracker. She always had some excuse to need to go to the office to see Ms. B.

For 20 years now she has been so much more than a co-worker. She has been a friend. So many people here at DJDS feel that way about Brigitte. She is always there for everyone with a smile, kindness, and never-ending help. She is the face of the Lower Division. It is not surprising that on parent surveys, she always has the highest ratings of any employee at the school. In the past weeks, teachers, parents, and especially students have been so teary-eyed when learning of Brigitte's retirement. Our 3rd graders concocted the perfect plan, telling her she should just move across the street to Modena to reduce her commute so she doesn't have to leave us. We all feel that way. We will miss her so much."

- Elana Shapiro





Thank you to our incredible faculty and staff!
 Each and every one of you made the 2021-22
 school year one to remember.

**Special thanks to Natalie Mohan and Stephanie Peetz for all of
 their hard work and dedication to the Counseling
 Department at Denver JDS during the 2021-22 school year!**

Thank you to our sponsors for their ongoing support!



**Today's Faculty/Staff Appreciation Breakfast
provided by:**

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Alyson Slatkin, Co President

Clarissa Cohen, Co President

Hannah Katz, Secretary

**A HUGE thank you to our Co PTO Presidents
Alyson Slatkin & Clarissa Cohen.**

**Alyson and Clarissa,
Thank you so much for all you have done throughout the
2021-22 school year and beyond for DJDS.**



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