

Elaine Rotenberg – Music Specialist

When I'm not teaching music, I am the Clinical Director of the Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Service and the Levine Jewish Residential and Family Service, where I have the privilege of working with families of all ages and stages, facing life's challenges. When I am teaching Jewish music, I have the joy of introducing Judaic text, prayer, holidays, Shabbat, Torah, and traditions through song to our next generation of Jewish adults. When I became a Bat Mitzvah, I was given a guitar, and told "learn to play the guitar and sing with children." I guess I have taken that pretty seriously! For more than 30 years I have taught in religious schools, day schools, Jewish summer camps, and synagogues across many states. And to this day, there is no greater joy I experience than the sound of young Jewish children humming or singing Jewish music to *themselves* when the class is OVER. It is that sound that reassures me that the message is becoming internalized, and will be passed on to yet another Jewish generation. If I can, in some small way, assist in helping Jewish children feel "at home" in their synagogue and Jewish community, then I will know that I have made a difference. I am looking forward to continuing the major strides we have made at Temple Emanu-el this past year, with children and families alike! I wish everyone a wonderful, sweet, Shana Tova U'metuka.