



Maureen Newlun
Chai Fives Teacher, General and Judaic Studies

Maureen Newlun brings decades of experience in early childhood and elementary education to the Chai Fives classroom. At the core of Maureen's teaching philosophy is the belief young children learn by doing, by playing, and by being presented with rich and diverse opportunities to explore their environment and their own capabilities.

After earning a degree in early childhood education at Seattle Central Community College (SCCC), Maureen began her professional work with children at the SCCC day care center. She spent 15 years in early childhood education at the Stroum Jewish Community Center's Seattle campus. While there, she taught every age group, including pre-kindergarten, and she served as assistant director of the daycare/preschool programs and director of the summer camp.

During her eight years at SJCS, Maureen has distinguished herself as a teaching assistant who has worked successfully at every grade level in both General and Judaic Studies. The majority of her experience in recent years has been in kindergarten through 2nd grades. In the SJCS primary grades she has taken the lead in handwriting instruction, and she is particularly adept with the Handwriting without Tears curriculum that will be used in Chai Fives.

Maureen is an avid learner who has committed herself to a high standard of professional development throughout her career. Her coursework has included Hebrew and American Sign Language, as well as multi-year participation in the intensive Melton Adult Jewish Education program. In preparation for the 2009-10 school year, Maureen will complement her Handwriting without Tears experience with further training; and, she will be trained by kindergarten teacher Mary Grace Lentz and learning specialist Chrys Hunstiger in Linguistic Remedies, a whole body approach to reading that has been used with great success in SJCS' primary grades.

Maureen is S.T.A.R.S (State Training and Registry System) certified and is also a S.T.A.R.S. trainer. Her board service includes the Puget Sound Association of Young Children, the Washington Association for the Education of Young Children, Congregation Kol Ami and the Kol Ami Sisterhood. Maureen has been married to her husband Ron for 38 years. She enjoys card- and jewelry-making, scrap-booking, knitting, and reading. In her spare time, she has been a Sunday School teacher at Temple De Hirsch Sinai and Congregation Kol Ami.