

Yochi Paltin was our daughter's Hebrew and Jewish Studies teacher for three consecutive years, during her 3rd, 4th and 5th grade years (from 2013-2016). During that time, Rosie gained comfort and fluency in both oral and written Hebrew. Each day, we heard of new ways Yochi engaged and challenged Rosie and her classmates, always offering her innovative ways to explore and absorb new material. Aware of Rosie's innate abilities, Yochi offered Rosie enrichment activities and pushed her to reach her greatest potential. She was a loving, caring role model and provided a warm and nurturing classroom atmosphere each and every day where Rosie grew and blossomed in every way.

One unusually wonderful aspect of Yochi's classroom was the presence of pet snakes that the students had to learn to care for. Unlike her own parents, Rosie held and grew fond of a pet snake named "Gingi". In her 5th grade year, Rosie wrote her own Hebrew poem about Gingi that won 4th place in a national RAVSAK day school poetry contest. She felt extraordinary pride in this accomplishment, and we were so grateful that Yochi encouraged her in this direction.

Now in 6th grade at Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy, Rosie and some of her classmates are soaring in their Hebrew class. All of us attribute their success and their deep love of Hebrew to their experience in Yochi's rich and engaging classroom.

We will be eternally grateful to Yochi Paltin for her gifted teaching.

Sincerely,  
Naomi Shapiro and Rabbi David Ackerman