

MEET THE NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL STAFF

2009-2010



Front: Gerda Moul L to R: Claire Dietrick, Lorri Kroboth, Cheryl Debowski, Peggy Barczak, Jackie Smith, Anna Cooper, Heather Burtch, Vicki Tomastik, Shannon Mincin Absent: Maria Lester, Mandy Turek, Elaine Steich, Lisa Kisner

Gerda Moul: I have been director and a teacher at Noah's Ark Preschool for the past 21 years. Prior to that, I taught preschool at the Mushroom Family Learning Center in Mt. Lebanon. Before our children arrived, I taught fourth grade in the Bethel Park School District and kindergarten in Jefferson Hills. I have a B.S. in Early Childhood/Elementary Education and completed post-graduate work in Early Childhood Education.

My family includes my husband, Larry, Allyson and her husband Michael, Darren and his wife Holly and my two grandchildren, Lauren and her husband David, Gretchen and Erika. We have lived in Peters Twp. for 37 years. I enjoy reading, gardening, and playing with our two grandchildren! I hope to serve the changing needs of our children and their families while supporting and inspiring the needs of our awesome staff.

Claire Dietrick: This is my first year at Noah's Ark. I teach the 4's PM class. I have a B.A. in Business Administration from Michigan State University. I previously worked at Beth El Nursery School in their 4's class.

My family includes my husband Mark, daughter Ellen (16) who is a junior in high school and our son Tristan (13) who is in 8th grade. I enjoy cooking, gardening and "trying" to be a reader.

Heather Burtch: This is my eleventh year teaching at Noah's Ark. I am teaching a 4's and a 5's class. I have a teaching certificate in early childhood education from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.A. in Religion. I have previously taught in several

different child care centers and was director of a child care-preschool program. I have also tutored conversational English and am a professional storyteller.

I live in the Canonsburg area with my family: My husband, Gary, my daughter Kelly (19), who is a sophomore in college and my son Luke (17), who is a junior in high school. I enjoy reading, walking, fun on the computer and having lunch with friends.

Cheryl Debowski: This will be my 16th year of teaching at Noah's Ark. I also have taught in a public preschool in Ohio for children with special needs and had been a substitute teacher in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania before Noah's Ark. I have a B.S. in Elementary Education from Valparaiso University and have completed some graduate study in early childhood education.

My family includes my husband Mike, our sons Mark and his wife Kendra, our 3-year old grandson and another on the way, Matt and his wife Liz and our newly-born granddaughter, and Michael (19). I enjoy reading, bike riding, and making an occasional quilt. I love spending time with our grandchildren.

Peggy Barczak: This is my eighth year at Noah's Ark. I have lived in Peters for eighteen years. I teach two 3's classes and one 4's class. I have a B.S. in Nursing from Penn State and am a certified personal trainer/aerobics instructor. Before having my children, I was a psychiatric nurse at St. Francis Hospital.

My husband Tom and I have two children, Sarah (15) and Nora (12). I enjoy sewing, crafts and spending time with my girls.

Vicki Tomastik: This is my thirteenth year at Noah's Ark. I will be teaching two 3's classes and Mommy & Me. I have a B.S. in Early Childhood education from University of Pittsburgh and A.S. in Child Care and Development. Previously, I have taught at Bethany Nursery School and Mushroom Family Learning Center.

My husband, Bill, and I have two sons: Mark is 25 and Adam is 22. We have an 11-year-old Bichon Frise named Angel.

Jackie Smith: This is my sixth year at Noah's Ark. I teach the AM and PM 3's classes. My previous preschool experience was at Christian Play Day Preschool in Indiana, PA. I taught there for five years and directed for 15 years. I have a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Indiana University of PA.

My family includes my husband David, our daughter Stacey, son Andy and his wife Bekie and our four grandchildren. I enjoy gardening and walking.



Maria E. Lester: This is my fifth year teaching Spanish at Noah's Ark Preschool. This year I will also be teaching Friday Workshop. I'm from Ecuador, South America, and have lived in the United States for about 13 years. My husband Olof and our two children Niki (10) and Christian (6) have resided in Peters Twp. since June of 2003. My educational background is in accounting and bilingual studies in Ecuador. I have previous experience teaching Spanish to kindergarteners at St. Thomas School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I enjoy painting, cooking and dancing.

Shannon Mincin: This is my fourth year with Noah's Ark. I will be teaching AM and PM 4's. I have a B.S. in Early Childhood Education. I have previously worked at Southminster Preschool and Mt. Lebanon AIU Head Start.

My husband, John, and I have two children: Kimberly (9) and Samantha (7). I enjoy playing with my children, reading and being with friends and family.

Anna Cooper: This is my third year with Noah's Ark. I am teaching the Tots and Stay N Play. I have a B.S. in Education from Clarion University—PA and Special Education endorsements from Old Dominion University—Norfolk, VA. I previously taught students with autism in a Virginia Beach, ages preschool through 8 years of age and 1½ years teaching preschool in State College, PA.

My husband Tom have three children and our soon-to-be

baby: Nicholas (11), Alaina (8), and Ethan (6). In my spare time, I enjoy scrapbooking and walking.

Lorri Kroboth: This is my second year at Noah's Ark. I am teaching the AM4's, Stay-N-Play, and Tots classes. I have a B.A. in Marketing from Penn State. Previously, I worked for Hecht's and Kaufmann's Department store in advertising and buying. I've also worked at Nextel and Management Recruiters as an account executive.

My husband, John, and I have two sons: Kyle (8) and Brett (5). I enjoy gardening, walking and time with my family.

Lisa Kisner: I am a speech therapist for the Intermediate Unit #1 of Washington County. I have a B.S. in Speech Pathology and Audiology and a M.S. in Speech Pathology. I'll be working a lot at Noah's Ark this year. I have been a speech pathologist for over 12 years, working in the school setting with pre-K and elementary school children.

My husband Christopher and I reside in Bethel Park. I enjoy reading and scrapbooking.

Mandy Turek: This is my third year as music teacher at Noah's Ark. I will also be teaching Friday Workshop. I have a B.A. in music therapy with a minor in psychology. I am board certified. Previously I worked as a music therapist at Country Meadows, Allegheny Valley School and I am contracted to teach at Trinity Middle and High School.

My husband John and I have a daughter Lindsay (8), a son Noah (7) and John Paul (almost 2). I enjoy knitting, cooking and watching cheesy horror films.

Elaine Steich: This is Elaine's first year as financial administrator. Elaine's daughter Maggie, now in Kindergarten, was a student at Noah's Ark for the previous two years. Elaine and her family are transplants to this area from the metropolitan DC area. Elaine's professional background includes working for the Kaiser Permanente health plan and Discovery Channel as an Information Technology Analyst. She also has extensive volunteer experience with the clients & members of several non-profit disability & advocacy organizations in the DC metro area.

Elaine lives in McMurray with her husband Jeff and daughter Maggie. They are deciding whether to add a dog or cat to their family.