



Mimi Polin Ferraro

Mimi is a native of Philadelphia, Pa. and graduate of nearby Cheltenham High School. After earning a Bachelor of Music in Music Therapy from Temple University, Mimi earned both a Master of Arts and a Doctorate in Jewish Education/Special Education at Gratz College. She was the first person ever to earn an Ed.D. at Gratz College. Her doctoral work explored special-needs Jewish education in Philadelphia.

Mimi has spent most of her career in Philadelphia's Jewish community, developing and implementing inclusion programs for people of all ages with disabilities. Mimi serves as the spiritual leader at Congregation Tiferes B'nai Israel in Warrington, Pa.

Mimi has been an adjunct Assistant Professor at the Temple University College of Education. More recently she has been teaching in Gratz College's Master of Arts in Education program. Her courses include "Identifying Students with Special Needs," "Moral Education," and "Literacy and the Changing Family." She also works at Ramah Day Camp as an Inclusion Specialist. Through these positions she acts on her commitment to breaking down barriers and helping people lead productive, happy lives.

This spring, Mimi launched her own educational consulting business called Next Steps Life Solutions, LLC. She is working with families on transition planning for young adults with disabilities.

She thanks her husband and children for their unconditional love and support throughout this process. It is not easy when the mom is in school, but they continuously did their part to enable her to reach this goal. She could not have done it without Stephen, Jocelyn and Zach, Ally and Zach, Ben and Erica, her true blessings.

Educate (and raise) each child according to each child's way.

This has been my guiding principle my entire career. To bring a love of Judaism and our heritage to any child, and to enable all people with differing abilities to be part of a loving community: These are such blessings. My vision is to see multiple ways for anyone to engage with Judaism and to bring meaning to the lives of people through our tradition, through learning and through community. My rabbinate will be one where barriers are lowered and there will be multiple ways for people to find their way into community and to find meaningful ways to be in society.