Meet Our Staff

Irma Hernandez: Center Director

Hello every one

My name is Irma Hernandez. I am the center director at Gan Yalduti.

My passion for early childhood education started at young age. I have been in the child development field for over 16 years now. I have taught in all classrooms from infants to pre-k.
I believe in learning through play. In my opinion our job is so important and exceptional.
Nothing brings me more joy than to see how our children change and learn every day.
I am also a mother of three beautiful children and I cherish their childhood as the precious stage of life that it is.
In my spare time, I enjoy reading, crocheting, hiking and painting.
I have taught in multiple setting and different programs, and I assure you here at Gan Yalduti you'll find a family feel, an amazing program and caring compassionate teachers.
We all work day in and out to give our children a balance education, where they enjoy their childhood and learn at the same time.

Welcome to Gan Yalduti!

Love always,

Ms Irma
Helen Cohen: Lead teacher

I grew up in a vibrant Jewish community in Mexico City, went to a Jewish day school up until high school, were among many things, we would learn Hebrew, Jewish traditions, and to love the state of Israel as ours. I also earn my Bachelors in Communication there, which helped me develop many skills that I apply today as a preschool teacher.
I’m proud to say I’ve been in Gan Yalduti from the beginning; we have grown together so much and continue to do so. My first three years were with the younger class, and today I am the lead teacher for the Ocean room, for kids 3 – 4 years of age. The Ocean Class is a busy space; my friends are working hard at developing different skills with strong foundation.

Even though we have common goals for the class, each child develops in a different way and at a different pace. For me it’s all about understanding how their mind works, figuring out the ways they learn the best, and above all, it’s about making them part of the process, by communicating, and giving them the time, feedback and respect, to do and figure out things their own way.

I provide an environment with clear boundaries and choices, allowing them to grow and learn as independent thinkers, as well as responsible accountable people. I strongly believe that my work is a partnership, because parent-teacher communication is essential for the better development of the child. I value and share parents’ concerns, and always work with them towards a common goal.

I’m very grateful to have this opportunity that to this day makes me grow and learn new thing, from the kids, from my peers and from myself.

Jill Bolduc: Lead Teacher

I grew up in a family with six brothers and sisters and have lived on the Eastside since 1988 when our family moved here from California.
My daughter, Kaitlyn, now lives in Portland, Oregon, where she is a reporter for Channel 12 News and she will be getting married this September.
I now live in Redmond with my Beagle, Sophie.
My most important goal is to make the children feel loved and valued for themselves.

I strongly believe in learning through play alongside their little classmates. This happens naturally without pressure, and as their teacher I will nurture and facilitate this development.
Jamie Yang: Lead Pre-k Teacher

I'm originally from a very small town of Merced, CA and have been residing here in the Northwest for exactly 10 years. Prior to working here at Gan Yalduti I was a Pre-K teacher at Early World Children School here in Bellevue, WA for 8 years. I'm currently working on finishing my degree in Early Childhood Education with a minor in Bilingual Special Education. My previous teaching experiences also include working for the Merced City School District in California. I speak, read and write fluently in Hmong and I have 7 sisters and 2 brothers. Although my siblings and I are all born here in the States my family is originally from Laos and Thailand. In my free time I love to sing, read and do arts and crafts.

Teaching is my passion. I believe that each child has a story to be heard. My goal as a teacher is to reach each student at their own level of comprehension. What I love most about children is their enthusiasm for learning and adventures. Every day is an adventure in our class and I can't wait to teach, learn and explore with my students!

Gabriela Antalute: Lead Teacher

I was born and grew up in a small town in Romania, Europe. After I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Geography and English and worked as a teacher for 7 years, I moved with my daughter and husband to United States in 2013. In the beautiful Bellevue, I joined the staff of a family daycare as a teacher assistant in an infant and toddler classroom and after a year, I became a part of Gan Yalduti family. I am teaching here for 4 years now, in different age group classes and during this time I earned my CDA credential in Early Childhood Education.

Teaching is all I wanted to do since I was in 1st grade. My mom, who was a teacher, inspired me to pursue this path. As a teacher my priority is to guide children to learn through active play. In this way they will grow into independent and confident students ready to succeed in kindergartener and life beyond. When I am not teaching I love to spend my free time with my family while hiking, reading, cooking or visiting new places.
Adi Groysman: Lead Teacher

Teaching kids is what I love doing. I’m originally from Israel with 13 years of teaching experience. For the past 10 years, I had my own Gan where I enjoyed supporting children’s growth and development from toddlers to happy and independent Children. I have a bachelor degree and a teaching certification from the University of Haifa and I’m a certified parent educator by the Israeli Adlerian institute. I strongly believe in the importance of a strong emotional foundation - Help every child to develop his or her self-confidence and a sense of ability. I do that by seeing each child as a unique person, listening to his or her needs, identifying their strengths. Having a strong foundation allows the children to form a group and learn from each other. I find that it helps to encourage the natural curiosity of children and their happiness. Teaching is what I am passionate about and I’m so lucky to be doing it every day.

Dor Hartman: Lead Teacher

I grew up in Kibbutz Lavi and have over 15 years of experience in the fields of early education and Hebrew teaching including running my own daycare in Tel-Aviv.

I moved to the US seven years ago and worked as a teacher in multiple Jewish Centers (Durham, Los Angeles and Scottsdale).

My teaching philosophy is focused around play and experiential learning while giving my students all the love and care they need. I am a mother of two boys (both are proud students of Gan Yalduti). Outside of work, I love spending time with my family and I’m also an amateur runner.

I am certified in Early Childhood Education by Haywood College, NC and she is also certified by the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in NY.
Melissa George: Lead Teacher

My name is Ms. Melissa.
I really enjoy the view of the world from a child's perspective.

The capabilities of children are endless if given the right tools and opportunities to try new things.
I have committed to sparking an interest of lifelong learning in myself and in others.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you and your family, together we shape the future!